REMINISCENCES OF THE ANTI-JAPANESE GUERRILLAS

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REMINISCENCES OF THE ANTI-JAPANESE GUERILLAS

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PUBLISHER'S NOTE

The heroic anti-Japanese armed struggle organized and waged for 15 years from the early 1930's under the direct leadership of the great Leader of the 40 million Korean people Comrade Kim Il Sung, peerless patriot, national hero, ever-victorious iron-willed genius-commander and one of the outstanding leaders of the international and working-class movements, marked a new high stage in the anti-Japanese, national-liberation struggle of the Korean people, and in the triumphant course of this struggle, brilliant revolutionary traditions were built up.

After liberation the Korean people have been able to build an ever-prosperous and developing, rich and strong socialist fatherland by preserving these brilliant revolutionary traditions and inheriting and developing them in an all-round way.

This book contains part of numerous "reminiscences of the anti-Japanese guerillas."

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GREAT PLAN FOR THE FATHERLAND'S RESTORATION

LIM CHUN CHU

The long march from Nanhutou to Tungkang which began in February 1936 was a powerful march lighting the way for the Korean revolution with great brilliance. It was also a significant march, because in the course of it the great plan and programme for the formation of the anti-Japanese united national front and the restoration of the fatherland were clearly worked out.

During the march which lasted several months Comrade Kim Il Sung oblivious of sleep and rest, engrossed himself entirely in elaborating plans for the future course of the revolution and immediate strategic tasks.

How, and in what form, should be organized the anti-Japanese united national front which would carry out the tasks for the restoration of the fatherland? What should be its programme, the concrete tasks of the Korean revolution that would serve as

the banner of the struggle? What preparations, organizational and ideological, should be made for the founding of the Party?

What preparations and steps are needed for the building of a new type of revolutionary base in the Changpai area bordering on the territory of the homeland?

In the course of the arduous march across steep, craggy mountains, he continued to think over these problems, working out concrete plans for their materialization.

And even while he was having a breathing spell during a severe battle with the enemy, while he was walking or taking a rest, he kept thinking about them.

While the guerillas had a short sleep in tents in a deep forest amid raging snowstorms, he remained awake all through the night, sitting beside a campfire and jotting down his mature plans in a notebook.

Thus, he drew up the great plan for the restoration of the fatherland, filing and retouching its wording to make every sentence and every letter radiant with patriotic ardour.

It was not in a study or a research room, but in the course of struggle and through hard trials that the great plan of the Korean revolution was clearly formed and profound, original theories on the revolution were developed.

Those who had no confidence in their own strength brushed aside the Korean revolution, only crying for a "world revolution" in a back room,

while the stupid dogmatists were raving that the "Korean revolution should be a socialist revolution." When the entire fellow countrymen were suffering in the slough of poverty, the so-called "patriots" who had fallen away from the revolution to seek an easy life and a career were haunting the pubs, and the riffraff were chanting "Japan and Korea, one community" or "monogenism of the Japanese and Koreans," like monks chanting prayers. At a time when the country was in such a miserable state, only Comrade Kim Il Sung was visualizing the future of the fatherland in its right perspective and was leading the Korean people to a glorious path of victory.

Through severe struggles and trials, through stern lessons and experience obtained at the cost of blood, he gained a clear vista leading to an independent, democratic Korea, the future of the fatherland where the democratic revolution would be victorious.

He had the unerring knowledge that none other than the Korean revolutionaries—true sons and daughters of Korea—would have to shoulder the brilliant future of the fatherland, that the Korean revolution should be carried out independently by the Korean people themselves.

That was why he gave himself heart and soul to mapping out the future of the Korean revolution, forgetful of sleep and rest and in disregard of difficulties. He was fearless and knew no fatigue.

The plan of Comrade Kim Il Sung attained greater maturity and was polished at the meeting

held at Mihunchen, Antu county, and it was consummated at Tungkang, Fusung county.

His great plan and profound, creative theories on the restoration of the fatherland became known far and wide among the people only after the Tungkang Conference.

The Tungkang Conference held on May 1-15, 1936 further concretized the strategic line which was set forth by Comrade Kim Il Sung and decided upon at the Nanhutou Conference, and discussed practical matters for carrying out the decisions of the Nanhutou Conference.

* * *

The first problem taken up at the conference was the establishment of new guerilla bases in connection with the Korean People's Revolutionary Army's advance to the border area of Korea.

This was of great practical importance for independent solution of a number of problems arising in the Korean revolution. Without going nearer Korea and pounding the enemy with arms, thereby bracing the spirit of the masses of the people and organizing and mobilizing them, it was unthinkable to carry into effect the great plan and programme for the restoration of the fatherland. This sacred and immense task rested on the shoulders of the Korean Communists led by Comrade Kim Il Sung.

After the Yaoyingkou Conference in 1935, the

permanent guerilla bases in eastern Manchuria were abandoned in the light of the prevailing situation and the armed struggle was waged in broader regions. It was just at this time when tremendous success was being achieved in the armed struggle that the problem of setting up new guerilla bases was raised again. This came as a surprise to some comrades.

In this connection Comrade Kim Il Sung said tc this effect:

...The guerilla bases—liberated areas—set up in eastern Manchuria in the past played a big role in the work of the Korean Communists for expanding and strengthening the anti-Japanese armed force and rallying anti-Japanese-minded masses.

We established guerilla bases in vantage areas that were easy for us to defend with meagre arms and difficult for the enemy to attack us even with modern arms; we defended those guerilla bases and the revolutionary masses with arms and delivered serious blows to the enemy....

Emphasizing the tremendous role played by the guerilla bases in eastern Manchuria, Comrade Kim Il Sung went on to say in the following veins:

...It was fully justified and very essential for the development of the revolution that we had preserved and expanded the revolutionary force and protected the people by establishing the fixed guerilla bases—liberated areas—in the forests easy to defend, at a time when the enemy was perpetrating mass slaughter everywhere trying frantically to exterminate our revolutionary force.

But later the enemy adopted the tactics of blocking the activity of the guerilla units, encircling and annihilating them, by mobilizing a large force tens of thousands strong. On the other hand, the enemy has pursued a so-called "return-to-allegiance" policy, intimidating and threatening those sections of the masses who had weak revolutionary consciousness. For this purpose they set up concentration villages.

Under these circumstances, to stick to the fixed guerilla bases meant courting self-destruction. In order to preserve and strengthen our force for a more decisive battle and to administer heavy blows in succession to the enemy, we disbanded the guerilla bases in eastern Manchuria and launched out into wider regions.

...But today it has become necessary to establish a guerilla base of a new type to cope with the created situation. The reason why we should do so is that in view of the present new balance of strength between the enemy and us, as well as from the strategic and tactical point of view, it is both impossible and unnecessary to organize bases according to the old methods and forms.

The guerilla base of a new type needed for us now should be so favourably located as to make it possible for us first of all to organize and lead the revolutionary movement of Korea as a whole, and at the same time, it should be set up in places which will offer us the possibility of free movement and unrestricted guerilla activities in wide areas. For such places we can choose the northernmost

areas of Korea around Mt. Baekdu along the rivers Amnok and Duman, and the areas embracing Changpai, Linkiang and Fusung counties.

Taking advantage of the natural vantage ground in these vast forests, we should set up secret camps and organize secret revolutionary organizations on a broad scale among the masses of the people living in the enemy-ruled districts within those areas.

Then, the new guerilla base will become an impregnable fortress located at a vantage ground in the Baekdu forests and backed up by the secret activities of the local revolutionary organizations. Operating from this base and relying upon the revolutionary organizations, we will penetrate deep into the homeland, spreading the flames of the anti-Japanese armed struggle with irresistible force.

This means that the base which will be set up in the area around Mt. Baekdu will literally be turned into the fortress of the Korean revolution.

The fortress will enable us to conduct military operations with great swiftness and render the enemy helpless by applying the strategy of elusive agility....

Furthermore Comrade Kim Il Sung said that neither guns and machine guns nor planes and bombs of the Japanese imperialists boasting of their "invincible imperial army," will be able to destroy the fortress of our revolution and we can make great success in the work of organizing and directing the Korean revolution as a whole when the guerillas build up a fortress in this natural vantage ground, surrounding it with broad networks of secret organ-

izations, and apply correctly the guerilla tactics of elusive agility.

His words gave the attendants at the conference a clear understanding of all problems and firm self-confidence. They felt they could look ahead clearly. Some comrades who at first could not correctly understand the significance of the creation of a new guerilla base, came to realize that it represented a big step forward in the purposeful revolutionary activities of the Korean Communists to settle the questions of the Korean revolution independently. Therefore, they all approved of the idea.

Then, the conference discussed the problem of founding the Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland.

Comrade Kim Il Sung submitted to the conference for final consideration the draft of the historic Ten-point Programme of the Association and the declaration of its establishment which he had drawn up, devoting all his energies during the arduous march and severe battles.

The draft Ten-point Programme of the Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland reflected the realities of Korea and the future of the revolution as clearly as a mirror. It gave profound Marxist-Leninist analysis to the revolutionary situation, the socio-economic conditions of our country and the correlation between the classes in the 1930's; it defined the character, tasks and strategic and tactical principles of the Korean revolution. It was fully in accord with the fundamental interests of the working masses including the workers and peasants and

with the common national interests of all sections of patriotic people.

The attendants of the conference clearly saw the path of revolution illumined for the first time in the history of Korea. Their hearts were full of pride and joy that now the Korean people and the Korean Communists possessed an explicit programme of their own which opened before them vistas to victory in the revolution and would enable them to march confidently and triumphantly along the highway of revolution. There might be difficulties and sacrifices on the highway. But, now they had a goal for whose realization they should fight consistently without vacillation and disappointment no matter what difficulties they might encounter. They could visualize vividly with their mind's eye a democratic, independent Korea where all people would work and live happily as equal and proud masters of the state power, as masters of the country.

The attendants of the conference gave enthusiastic approval to the Ten-point Programme of the Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland, a great programme of the Korean revolution.

They were no less stirred when the discussion on the inaugural declaration of the Association was held.

Expressing burning indignation at the fact that the fatherland, a beautiful land of three thousand *ri* which our nation held dear and developed down through generations, was invaded by the Japanese imperialist robbers and the sagacious Korean nation subjected to oppression and exploitation like

slaves, the inaugural declaration of the Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland stressed that patriotism and the ardent spirit of independence of the Korean nation were ablaze now as they had been before. The declaration's stirring spirit of independence was brought home to the hearts of the attendants of the conference.

The declaration also laid emphasis on the brilliant history of the anti-Japanese struggle waged by our nation. It said: It was only a handful, the five traitors of 1905, who accepted the ruin of Korea. But the entire Korean people waged the volunteers' struggle against brigandish Japanese imperialism and have continued their victorious struggle—March First Uprising, large-scale strike struggle, particularly the brilliant anti-Japanese armed struggle. This part of the declaration inspired everyone with national pride, self-confidence and a burning fighting spirit.

...The independence and liberation of the fatherland will certainly be achieved if all of the 23 million masses of the people unite as one, join the anti-Japanese fatherland restoration front and work actively to further its aims. The Korean people, irrespective of their social positions, can equally contribute to the national cause—those who have money can donate money, those who have provisions can contribute provisions and those who have skill and strength can offer skill and strength....

Thus expressing confidence in victory and proclaiming the founding of the Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland, the declaration, in its

concluding part, passionately called on everyone to join and fight in the Association, an organization of the anti-Japanese united national front for the independence movement of Korea. The concluding part inspired growing fighting spirit and national conscience in all those present.

The inaugural declaration won unanimous, enthusiastic approval. The adoption of the declaration was followed by discussions as to in whose name the declaration should be published.

All attendants of the conference suggested that the declaration be issued in the name of Comrade Kim Il Sung. But Comrade Kim Il Sung objected saying in the following veins:

...The Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland should take a national form because it must rally all the anti-Japanese forces of the Korean people around it. The initiator of the declaration, therefore, must be a well-known elderly comrade of great reputation who has participated in Korea's independence movement since the Volunteers' Struggle and March First Uprising....

The attendants of the conference, however, reached a unanimous view that there was none who was known among various strata of the Korean people and could lead the whole nation better than Comrade Kim Il Sung.

Thus, Comrade Kim Il Sung made public the inaugural declaration of the Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland under the assumed name of Kim Dong Myong on May 5, 1936, when the conference was still in session.

The conference elected Comrade Kim Il Sung Chairman of the Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland and made public the Association's Ten-point Programme.

As Chairman of the Association, Comrade Kim Il Sung dwelt on the importance of its formation and on the problem of further expanding and strengthening the network of its organizations. He spoke to this effect:

...The formation of the Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland will be of tremendous significance in the anti-Japanese national-liberation struggle of the Korean people and, more, will make a great contribution to the international anti-fascist popular front movement as a link in it.

We should extensively ramify the organizational networks of the Association and unite broad anti-Japanese forces around the armed force.

What we must bear in mind in this respect is that we should, first of all, strengthen the organizational and ideological unity of the ranks of Communists and the working class and enhance their leading role in the united front. Along with this, the Programme of the Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland should be deeply inculcated into the minds of the popular masses of all strata. To this end, the specific features of the local population must be meticulously taken into consideration....

Comrade Kim Il Sung emphasized that in forming, expanding and consolidating the organizations of the Association, whether the work was to be

done openly or in secrecy should be decided after seriously taking into consideration the specific features of the local population concerned. He said there were things that had to be borne in mind in forming the Association's branches, expanding and strengthening its networks in areas inhabited by Koreans in northeast China as within Korea.

He went on to say to this effect:

...In the first place the same name should not be used for all organizations. There must be distinction between the areas where the socialist enlightenment movement has developed and the areas where the nationalist movement gained momentum. The Association's branches should be given different names—Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland in one place, National-Liberation Union in another place, and Anti-Japanese Union in yet another place....

Comrade Kim Il Sung emphasized time and again that in expanding and consolidating the organizational networks of the united front, we should work well and properly with the working class, the peasant masses and people from all walks of life. Particularly, making a scientific analysis of the complex political and social features of Korea and citing detailed instances, he indicated the orientation and the methods of work in dealing with different strata.

Taking the nationalists as an example, he said as follows:

...We are to distinguish the upper crust from the lower masses of nationalists. We should strictly divide even the upper crust into two categories:

those who are comparatively reliable and aspire after progress and those who are not.

If we regard them all in the same light without distinction, we will lose even those people with whom we can join hands.

This means a great loss. We must, therefore, make a conscious approach to those people with whom we can co-operate, and influence them through persistent explanation and persuasion.

It is advisable to start with introducing to them our forerunners who fought a patriotic struggle in Korea in the past, and gradually rouse their pent-up anti-Japanese sentiments. And we must see to it that they join the Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland of their own accord with national pride. At the same time we must teach them to hate the renegade nationalists by exerting constant influence upon them through the examples of us Communists.

Then they will realize by themselves that we Communists are genuine patriots....

With regard to the religious men, he said:

...Religion is like opium. And opium-smoking cannot be remedied in a day. Religious men, believing the creed of their religion to be "truth," are ready to devote their life to it. They can be compared to opium-smokers who find it very difficult to pass a day without smoking opium.

If we are tactless and start with preaching to them that religion is a superstition, how will they react? They will bow their head immediately, close their eyes and pray to God: "Oh, Lord! Save my

soul from the ordeal of devils and satans!"

It is foolish to force them to forsake in a day their religious belief which has taken deep root in the course of long years.

Hence, we must concentrate on awakening their national pride. In this, we should not turn to the upper crust, for it is advisable to work with the rank and file—ordinary believers, particularly the youths of sensitive nature. We must tell them that a religious man also needs his fatherland, that, in fact, no religious freedom is guaranteed in a colonial country and that religious freedom can be ensured only when the fatherland attains independence.

We must tell the Christians how their fellow believers with a national conscience fought bravely for the independence of Korea after its occupation by the Japanese imperialists, tell the Buddhist believers how valorously St. Sosan, Samyongdang and many other patriotic Buddhist monks fought against the Japanese aggressors in the Imjin Patriotic War.

We must acquaint the believers in Chondogyo with the peasant uprising (the Kabo peasant war) led by Jon Bong Jun as well as the anti-Japanese movements of their fellow believers, and must rouse the believers in Daejonggyo to burn with righteous national indignation by telling them how the Korean nation with a brilliant history of 4,000 years can tolerate such inhuman maltreatment and contempt under the tyranny of the despicable Japanese imperialists.

We must thus vigorously carry on the organizational work of gradually rallying even the religious men around the anti-Japanese united national front....

In view of the actual situation at the time when various religions were widespread in Hwanghae and Pyongan Provinces and other parts of Korea, and of the fact that there were no small number of people connected with them, Comrade Kim Il Sung emphasized, as one of the important duties confronting the Korean Communists, to enlist the conscientious believers into the anti-Japanese united national front.

Comrade Kim Il Sung proceeded to teach them in a concrete way the rules and methods of work with women, youths, children and various anti-Japanese units.

Then, emphasizing the need of widely employing the local organizations and groups recognized by the enemy in the work of expanding and strengthening the organizational networks of the Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland, Comrade Kim Il Sung outlined concrete methods of work within the legal organizations in the following manner.

...Beginning with evening classes, athletic meets, social gatherings, associations of supporters for the school, religious organizations, associations for rural development, etc., we must extensively utilize even reactionary organizations set up by the enemy. Going in among the lower masses in such organizations, the Communists must help them realize the situation of their nation and further their class

awakening through persistent explanation and persuasion and draw them into the anti-Japanese united national front.

This is a very difficult work requiring circumspection. Revolutionary history tells us that a momentary blunder may give away the secret of the organization. Taking to heart this lesson learned at the cost of blood, we must not relax our revolutionary vigilance for a moment....

In connetion with the work of the anti-Japanese united national front, Comrade Kim Il Sung stressed the need of developing more extensively, and raising to a new high, the mass political propaganda work, and posed some questions of principle to be observed in carrying out the propaganda and agitation work by illegal means.

As to the method of propaganda and agitation, he spoke to this effect:

...What is needed for our propaganda and agitation work to grasp the hearts of the masses? It is of primary importance that the propagandists themselves have a concrete understanding of the real situation and characteristics of those to whom their propaganda is addressed. If they have no or insufficient understanding of them, their propaganda and agitation work will suffer from subjectivism and formalism, serving no purpose whatever.

Oral or written propaganda, visual aids, newspapers, weeklies and monthlies must be set out in lucid language with rich content.

Redundant and difficult words should be avoided. Though of a few words, if a propaganda ma-

terial is easy for the people to understand and moves their hearts, it will be far more powerful than thousands of materials, written in difficult language with poor content. Particularly, in view of the utmost secrecy of our work, a handbill difficult to understand and inconvenient to carry is by no means advisable....

Speaking about the content of propaganda and agitation, Comrade Kim Il Sung gave pointers as to the distinction between the content to be delivered among the Party organizations and the revolutionary army and that intended for the broad anti-Japanese masses.

...The main subjects within the Party organizations and the revolutionary army should be principles of our strategy and tactics based on Marxism-Leninism, the guidance of the revolutionary masses and method of work with them, the theory on building the Party and revolutionary organizations, the formation of the anti-Japanese united national front and the Party's guidance of the front, etc.

On the other hand, in our propaganda work with the anti-Japanese masses, we must explain and inculcate the content of the Ten-point Programme of the Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland according to their preparedness and different social standings. At the same time, we must acquaint the people with the achievements made by the Soviet Union in socialist construction and her might, induce them to support and protect the Soviet Union and instil in them a firm conviction of victory in the revolution.

It is also important to strengthen class education and the work of disseminating the ideas of scientific socialism among the masses of workers and peasants and among the revolutionary intellectuals. Only by so doing can we ensure the leading role of the working class in the anti-Japanese united national front....

The wise and concrete instructions of Comrade Kim Il Sung to organize and expand the Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland as an organization of the anti-Japanese united national front, the Ten-point Programme and the inaugural declaration of the Association presented to us a grand and full picture of the Korean revolution, making every detail of it tangible and clear to everybody.

The attendants of the conference again did admire the outstanding Marxist-Leninist views and intelligence of Comrade Kim Il Sung, his correct analysis of and deep-going insight into the political situation and class relations in the Korean society and his ardent patriotism.

The attendants of the conference, feeling self-confidence and pride in the fact that the Korean people had a wise Leader of the revolution, and firmly confident of the victory in the revolution, gave their ardent support to his strategic policy on organizing the Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland.

In conclusion, the conference discussed concretely the question of founding a Marxist-Leninist Party in Korea.

The Korean Communists headed by Comrade Kim Il Sung waged from the initial stage of their anti-Japanese armed struggle a tenacious struggle to wipe out the evil consequences of the factional strife of the factional elements, the ulcer in the communist movement in Korea, to do away with the ideological survivals of reliance on others without any independence, to consolidate unity and solidarity in the communist ranks and to bring up and strengthen the nuclei of communist leadership.

The loss in our revolution caused by the "Left" adventurism of the factional elements and narrow-minded nationalists who drove the masses into reckless uprisings in the early 1930's, the serious loss inflicted upon the communist movement in Korea by the manoeuvres of the factionalists who had conducted the struggle against "Minsaengdan" in an ultra-left manner since 1933—surmounting all these grave trials, Comrade Kim Il Sung firmly adhered to his own views and independence as a Korean Communist, and thus saved the revolution from a crisis and brought up and trained the leading core.

Such being the case, the Comintern also duly appraised the line of Comrade Kim Il Sung on founding a Party and the work of Korean Communists, encouraging them more rapidly to promote the work of founding a Party in Korea.

Under these conditions, the conference discussed the matter of further concretizing the line for the foundation of a Party advanced by Comrade Kim Il Sung at the Nanhutou Conference.

At the conference he elucidated the question of making concrete preparations for founding a Party.

While stressing the necessity of firmly building up the communist pivots he said to this effect:

...To found a Party definite organizational pivots are necessary. These organizational pivots consist of the leading nuclei of Communists steeled and tested in the actual struggle. Accordingly, we Communists must further push ahead with the work of expanding and consolidating the ranks of leading nuclei, the basis for founding a Party....

Comrade Kim Il Sung then emphasized the need of steadily expanding and consolidating the Party organization. He said:

...We must constantly expand and strengthen the Party organization by enlisting in the Party more advanced elements from among the workers, peasants and revolutionary intellectuals who are steeled and tested in the guerilla and anti-Japanese revolutionary struggles. This work should be carried on not only in the guerilla ranks and in northeast China; it should be actively carried on even in the homeland.

So far we have failed to carry on this work properly among the progressive workers, peasants and intellectuals at home. Proceeding from this, we must first set up organizational networks of the Party at home, decisively overcome factionalism and "Left" and Right deviations, the ulcer in the past communist movement at home, and rally the Communists at home organizationally....

Laying stress on bringing up and training the enlisted Party members into indomitable revolutionary fighters, Comrade Kim Il Sung said that a Party working committee should be organized for the unified guidance of the Party organizations to be formed at home, as well as of the work of founding a Party.

His words on preparing for the founding of a Party and particularly his well-advised and wise policy of organizing Party organizations at home and of expanding and strengthening them for the purpose of laying the organizational foundation of a Marxist-Leninist Party to be organized in the future enjoyed unanimous support.

The conference also discussed the problem of reorganizing the Korean People's Revolutionary Army, and, in this connection, the proposal of Comrade Kim Il Sung—his stand of *Juche* to make a contribution to the international revolution by successfully carrying out the Korean revolution—was adopted unanimously, enjoying support and admiration of the attendants of the conference.

* * *

The grand programmatic policy on the Korean revolution proposed by Comrade Kim Il Sung at the Tungkang Conference not only marked a great turning-point in the development of the Korean revolution in the 1930's but also clearly illumined the road of democratic development which Korea

should follow after the victory of the revolution.

On the basis of this policy, units of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army set up new guerilla bases in the border area of Korea, expanded and reinforced the Party organizations at home and in the Changpai area, extensively developed the work of organizing the anti-Japanese united national front such as the Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland and National Liberation Union and thus brought about a great upsurge in the revolution by fully controlling and guiding the Korean revolutionary movement.

They converted Shangkangkou, Chungkangkou and Hsiakangkou in Changpai county into revolutionary districts and, in these districts alone, enlisted hundreds of thousands of masses in the Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland; furthermore, they rallied numerous anti-Japanese masses at home around the Korean National Liberation Union, Anti-Japanese Union, etc., waging an anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle on an extensive mass basis.

The Korean people came to see clearly the future of their fatherland in the grand programme set forth by Comrade Kim Il Sung and, with pride and firm confidence in victory in the revolution as harbingered by the torchlight of the restoration of the fatherland which blazed high at Bochonbo and in the repeated victories attained by the People's Revolutionary Army in the border area of Korea, came out in great number to join the anti-Japanese front.

The programmatic policy of Comrade Kim Il Sung ushered in an era, of which the Korean nation is boundlessly proud, opening the glorious pages of the 1930's, a brilliant period in our revolutionary history.

It is thanks to this grand programme that the Korean Communists could greet the brilliant day of restoration of the fatherland, displaying indomitableness in the arduous, protracted anti-Japanese armed struggle, and it is thanks to the foundation of such scientific strategy and tactics that the Korean people could have successfully proceeded with the building of a new society after liberation.

That we could found and consolidate our glorious Party under the complicated conditions created immediately after the liberation when the anti-Party factionalists, alien elements, parochialists, renegades to the revolution, and all shades of philistines came out under the mask of patriots and leaders, that we could successfully carry out the democratic reforms, firmly holding in our hands the genuine people's power and upholding the Twenty-point Platform based on the Ten-point Programme of the Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland and bring about the brilliant results of today in socialist construction, are all attributable to the fact that the Communists, under the wise guidance of such a great Leader as Comrade Kim Il Sung and under his leadership, were provided with the great programme as far back as the 1930's, and to the bedrock foundation formed in the course of the protracted anti-Japanese armed struggle.

THE BOCHONBO BATTLE

O BAEK RYONG

It was in the autumn of 1936 that our anti-Japanese guerilla units moved to Changpai county in order to march into the homeland.

Early in that year, a historic conference was held at Nanhutou, Ningan county.

At this conference, Marshal Kim Il Sung put forward the line of further developing the anti-Japanese united national front movement, preparing for the founding of a Party, strengthening the guidance to the revolutionary movement at home, and moving the Korean People's Revolutionary Army to the border areas along the Amnok and Duman rivers.

Following the conference, the main forces of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army personally led by Marshal Kim Il Sung advanced to the Changpai area and expanded the armed struggle.

Thrown into panic by this move, the Japanese

imperialist aggressors massed their forces from various parts, and made all frenzied attempts to check the activities of our units. Nevertheless, in only one or two months in the autumn, while we had been in Changpai county, we dealt the enemy crushing blows at Tateshui, Hsiaoteshui, Panchiehkou, Erhtaokang, Erhshihtaokou, and elsewhere. And in the winter of the same year, the enemy sustained ignominious defeats in many battles including those at Heihsiatzukou, Wenyentung, Mt. Hungtou, Taochuanli, Limingshui. Thus the "winter punitive operation" of the enemy ended in a fiasco.

In this way, while intensifying the armed struggle, our units expanded the network of Party organizations and the Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland in Changpai county, rallied the broad strata of the anti-Japanese forces to lay a powerful revolutionary mass basis, and strengthened our leadership in the revolutionary movement at home.

In those days, the Japanese imperialist aggressors, scheming to invade China proper and the Soviet Union and further to occupy the whole of Asia, strengthened still more plunder and oppression in Korea. Raving about "Japan and Korea being one community" and "monogenism of the Japanese and Koreans," the enemy ran amuck to arrest and imprison all the patriots in the homeland, stripped Korea of all its resources and forced the Korean people to groan in the medieval darkness.

Japanese imperialism stretched out its crooked tentacles even to the remote mountain villages

in the border regions. Most of the inhabitants of the Samsu and Kapsan regions were originally migrants from other parts of Korea, where they were subjected to exploitation by the Japanese imperialists and landlords and compelled to leave for these areas in the hope of opening up plots in the mountain. The Japanese imperialists felled timber at random in the virgin forests of Mt. Baekdu. But they strictly prohibited the opening up of plots in mountain on the pretence of "protecting" forest.

It was in those days that the mountain tillers, who had no clothes to wear, barely covered their bodies with flax bags in cold winter days. Now it is an old story.

In this very period Marshal Kim Il Sung, leading the Korean People's Revolutionary Army, advanced to the other side of the border line and inflicted defeat after defeat upon the enemy with elusive movements and brilliant tactics.

This inspiring happy news profoundly stirred the hearts of the entire Korean people with new hope and excitement and instilled in them an eager desire to see as early as possible the anti-Japanese guerillas march into the homeland.

After we had moved to the Changpai area, we breathed the breath of the mountains and rivers of the fatherland and eagerly looked forward to the day when we would be in its embrace.

Prior to our march into the homeland, Marshal Kim Il Sung, relying on the reconnoitered information, drew up a detailed combat plan—the distance and time of our march, the targets and methods

of attack, the formation of combat units, mass political work and other problems.

I heard from a comrade who was then an orderly that in the tent of Marshal Kim Il Sung the lamp burnt until dawn for several nights.

Finally, June 2, 1937—the day of the historic march into the fatherland—came.

An expeditionary force of some 150 comrades picked from the 7th and 8th Regiments and the Guards Company set out on the march into the fatherland under the command of Marshal Kim Il Sung.

We arrived at a village on the outskirts of Erhshihsantaokou at the scheduled time on the same day.

We were warmly welcomed by the villagers. We took a rest there that night, doing political work among them.

Next morning we climbed a hill at Kusigol and from there viewed the blue water of the eternal Amnok river and cloud-piercing mountain peaks of the fatherland.

How dear the mountains and the water were! But, at the thought that at that very moment too, the Japanese imperialist robbers were bleeding white our people and committing every kind of barbarism, we were filled with rage and clenched our fists.

After sunset we resumed our march under cover of darkness.

We marched on silently, tense with excitement. At the crossing point near a dam, where the flows of the Kuwusu and Amnok rivers converge, we

crossed the river by a raft bridge prepared beforehand.

After we had crossed the river, Marshal Kim Il Sung placed a detachment in ambush near the crossing point to guard the raft bridge and ensure our retreat.

By the time all our units had climbed the Konjangdok hill dawn was beginning to break.

Marshal Kim Il Sung issued an order to take a rest. Everyone lay down, but no one seemed to feel tired and fell asleep.

Morning came, our first morning in the homeland!

The date was June 4. We looked around the beautiful scenery with rapt minds. Mt. Baekdu towered imposingly into the hazy blue, bathed in the morning sunshine.

"How beautiful! Magnificent!"

Everyone talked in excited tones. Embraced in the bosom of the fatherland, we were filled with deep emotion. Some comrades walked about throwing their arms around the trees; others rolled on the grass, scooped up handfuls of earth, smelled it and rubbed their cheeks with it.

That day, after issuing a rest order for the men, Marshal Kim Il Sung, far from taking a rest, busied himself in the elaboration of the plan of the coming operation.

June 4 was market day in Bochonbo and an atmosphere of bustle reigned the streets from noon. Taking advantage of this, Marshal Kim Il Sung dispatched Comrades Ma Dong Hui and Kim Hak

Sil to the streets to confirm the enemy's movements already reconnoitred. They disguised themselves as an egg-seller and a passer-by and walking up and down the streets of Bochonbo scouted the enemy's movements.

Marshal Kim Il Sung personally made a close observation of the enemy's public institutions in Bochonbo through binoculars.

In the afternoon a meeting of commanding personnel was held in the forest of Konjangdok hill, where Marshal Kim Il Sung assigned the following combat missions to each unit:

One unit was to attack the Forest Protection Office, the Township Office, the Agricultural Experiment Station and the Post Office and another unit with one machine gun guard the road and disrupt communication lines leading to Hyesan and cut off enemy reinforcement coming along this route.

A third one was to attack the police substation and block the highway leading to Musan with two machine guns and the last was to distribute handbills and copies of the appeal in various parts of the town and conduct propaganda work among the masses, and carry away the military supplies captured from the enemy.

The commanding post was set up under the aspen tree standing by the Karim river. Attack would start at ten o'clock in the evening.

When the combat mission was assigned, all the guerillas in high morale made a firmer resolve to

defeat the enemy. They waited for the signal to start. The sun set in the west.

Soon after the sunset, Marshal Kim Il Sung issued an order to start. We descended the Konjangdok hill in a single column with a scout party at the head.

Before long we arrived at the bank of the Karim river flowing along the edge of the town of Bochonbo, where stood a water mill. We crossed the river and walked stealthily and swiftly towards our respective targets.

Holding the machine gun tightly, I approached the police substation.

When I peeped into the substation a couple of policemen were interrogating two innocent peasants. One policeman with a club in his hand was standing beside the peasants and the other was arrogantly seated in a chair with his back on the window. Great indignation surged in my heart.

It was at this moment that the report of a gun rang through the streets of Bochonbo, breaking the silence of the night. I pulled the trigger of the machine gun trained on the heart of the enemy. One fellow fell to the floor with a piercing cry, and the lamp was smashed.

Then the other one tried to run away. At that moment with the machine gun resting on my lap I fired on.

Then we leaped into the substation. A policeman who was hit in the arm stood shivering in the pigsty lacking even the courage to resist. Having mercilessly wiped out the enemy in the substation, we

captured a quantity of weapons and ammunition, including a light machinegun (with an inscription: "Donated by the Women's National Defence Association"), rifles and revolvers.

Just then, the crack of guns could be heard in the vicinities of the Township Office, the Forest Protection Office, the Agricultural Experiment Station and the Post Office.

The organs of the Japanese imperialists which had bled the Korean people white, were enveloped in flames shooting high in the sky.

On that night most of the "notables" of the town were gathered at a banquet at the home of the chief of the Forest Protection Office (a Japanese) in celebration of his transfer to a higher post. They were all wiped out to a man.

The gun roar of the anti-Japanese guerillas which had shaken the streets of Bochonbo aroused the people to a new struggle.

The Bochonbo awoke. Lit by the revolutionary flames, its streets were as bright as daytime.

The people—men and women, young and old—came out on the streets from every corner of the town, shouting "Long live the independence of Korea!" "Long live the Korean revolution!" "Long live General Kim Il Sung!" With tears in their eyes they embraced the guerillas.

Thanks to the brilliant activities of our propaganda workers leaflets of the "Ten-point Programme of the Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland," the "Proclamation" and the "Appeal to the

Korean People!" were posted everywhere in a few minutes. The Proclamation reads:

"The most villainous bandits, Japanese imperialists have occupied Korea. Through its colonial domination by the Government-General for over 20 years, Japanese imperialism has been trampling down and massacring the Korean people. And the Korean people have been robbed by it of all the property gotten by their sweat and blood and forced to lead a miserable life of colonial slavery.

"Furthermore, the enemies are trying to drive our nation into serving as an 'advance detachment' in the Second World War, a tool of the aggressive war against China.

"The Korean nation is at stake. We are the Korean People's Revolutionary Armymen waging a struggle to open the way out for the nation, to bring a worthy life to the people, defeat Japanese imperialism and liberate the fatherland. It is universally acknowledged that we have dealt fatal blows to the Japanese imperialist bandits in life and death struggle against them for the past six or seven years on the vast Manchurian plain.

"Relying on the firm unity between the patriots in Korea and our ardent fighters, this Army has come on an expedition to the areas of North and South Hamgyong Provinces after crossing the Amnok and Duman rivers, with the object of fighting the Government-General of Korea, the vampire that battens on the blood of the Korean nation.

"Long-suffering compatriots and brothers! Come out at once, rally around the anti-Japanese united

national front and respond to the guerilla war of this Army by waging struggles of various forms!

"Struggle on to smash the rule of Japanese imperialism at an early date and establish a genuine government of the Korean people!"

This hearty and earnest appeal evoked both burning patriotism and enmity among the people. That night propaganda workers posted leaflets on telegraph poles, walls, trees, fences, gates and what not, riding on another's shoulders.

"General Kim Il Sung has come! Our revolutionary army has arrived!" shouted the people and they vied with one another in thronging the street in front of the police substation.

Warmly answering the cheers of the crowd, Marshal Kim Il Sung delivered a fiery speech exposing and condemning the diabolical atrocity of the Japanese imperialist aggressors and calling on the entire anti-Japanese patriotic forces to unite firmly to fight against the enemy for the freedom and independence of the fatherland.

Speech of Marshal Kim Il Sung profoundly stirred the heart of the masses and instilled in them firm confidence of the freedom and liberation of the fatherland.

When the people saw in person Marshal Kim Il Sung, distinguished Hero and Leader of the nation whom they respected and loved so much, they were filled with boundless joy and emotion. His speech was followed by impressive meetings between the guerillas and masses here and there.

A wave of jubilation and hope swept the streets.

After a good while the bugle for the withdrawal of the units sounded. The people were reluctant to part with us. They volunteered to carry the booty.

"Good-bye, fatherland! Good-bye, Bochonbo! The day will surely come when you are forever liberated!" pledged all the guerillas leaving Bochonbo.

They put in their knapsacks a handful of earth of the dear homeland.

When our units came again to the Amnok riverside a raft bridge had already been prepared.

Marshal Kim Il Sung manifested special care for everyone of us crossing the river in the darkness. He was the last to cross the river. Such was the way he treasured and loved his men with paternal solicitude.

When the enemy's military and police authorities received the report on Bochonbo a few hours later, they held an "emergency meeting." While hurriedly dispatching a police detachment to Bochonbo, they sent out police detachment to Nongsan and Doksan on the upper reaches of the Amnok. They also sent out all the Hyesan garrison and other "punitive detachments" to Karimri. The Government General, thrown into utter discomfiture by the report on the Bochonbo battle, summoned the heads of the military and police authorities in a frenzied attempt to work out emergency measures.

On the morning of June 5, the police detachment commanded by Okawa crossed first the river in pursuit of us.

Then Marshal Kim Il Sung sent back the more than 200 people who had been following us carry-

ing the booty. He advised them to take a hill path in another direction so that they might avoid an encounter with the chasing enemy.

Marshal Kim Il Sung made a farewell speech to the people who were so sorry to part with us. He emphasized that although we were now withdrawing, the day was not far off when we would meet again, and that at home they should remain courageous to the last in the struggle against Japanese imperialism with firm faith in the future victory. Then he thanked them once again for their assistance to the anti-Japanese guerillas and distributed the booty to each of them.

The enemy who had crossed the river was neither so brave as to continue his pursuit nor so daring as to violate the "order" of his superior by giving up the pursuit. So, the enemy organized a "death scouting party" which gaspingly climbed Mt. Kusi with two light machineguns at the head.

Having occupied favourable positions on the ridge and fully prepared for combat, our guerillas dealt a telling blow to the enemy. On that day, several scores of the enemy troops were killed or wounded in action. The enemy fled leaving behind a lot of weapons and war materials including one light machinegun and grenadethrowers. The Japanese imperialist army and police again suffered an ignominious defeat.

Thus the operation plan for the historic march into the homeland in June 1937 was successfully carried out.

* * *

Many years have passed since then. But the reminiscences of the battle of Bochonbo fill the hearts of the Korean people with deep emotion.

It is because the battle of Bochonbo enkindled a powerful revolutionary flame in the hearts of the Korean people in the grimmest days when our nation was at the crossroads of life and death, because it left immortal stories of heroism that will go down in history.

The historic victory in the Bochonbo battle waged under the direct command of Marshal Kim Il Sung not only gave conviction of victory and hope to the Korean people who were languishing under the darkness of Japanese imperialist rule but today powerfully inspires our people to more brilliant victory.

AS HE LEADS THE REVOLUTION

PAK SONG CHOL

The fifteen years of anti-Japanese armed struggle was a chain of indescribable difficulties and hardships. But we fought heroically and won ultimate victory, valiantly blazing the thorny path of revolution.

Arduous was each year, each day of the anti-Japanese armed struggle, but particularly most trying and severe was the period around the 1938 Nanpaitze Conference in Mongkiang county.

Following the establishment of the guerilla bases of new form around Mt. Baekdu in 1936, the armed struggle against Japanese imperialism expanded and became intensified, and particularly fanned by the campaigns in the homeland of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army the flames of the anti-Japanese struggle raged more furiously throughout the country. This threw the Japanese imperialists into consternation.

They became more desperate as they realized that they could not continue their war of aggression

undisturbed unless the activities of the anti-Japanese guerillas, the greatest obstacle to the realization of their aggressive plans, were repressed.

Moreover, in the summer of 1938, the Japanese imperialists sustained a heavy blow in their attack on the area of Lake Khasan at the southern tip of the Maritime province of the U.S.S.R. Now they mobilized hundreds of thousands of men—the main force of their Kanto Army which had been deployed along the Soviet-Manchurian border and part of their forces in China proper—and launched a large offensive, alleging that they would "exterminate" the anti-Japanese guerillas in eastern, northern and southern Manchuria, and particularly in western Gando where the main force of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army was in action.

The main force of the First Army of the Anti-Japanese Combined Forces in southern Manchuria suffered heavy casualties; the Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland in Changpai and the underground organizations of the National Liberation Union at home also suffered great losses under the enemy's brutal suppression. A grave hour had come to the revolutionary movement.

Unless this grave situation was saved at once, the anti-Japanese guerilla units would be crushed piecemeal in the enemy's encirclement, and the Korean revolution would be driven into the most difficult plight.

Circumstances made it imperative to regroup the forces of the units without a moment's delay and continue to take the initiative in battles firmly in

the face of the enemy's offensive, and take energetic steps to save the revolution from the crisis.

Making a clear-cut analysis of the situation in those difficult days, Comrade Kim Il Sung came out with a firm resolve to lead the struggle to overcome the prevailing crisis and to save the Korean revolution from the difficult situation.

He worked out a concrete plan to go over to a decisive counter-offensive, firmly taking the initiative in the fight against the enemy. And under the plan he ordered the units to break through the enemy encirclement and concentrate at Nanpaitze, Mongkiang county.

It was around this time in the summer of 1938 that the company to which I belonged was marching to Nanpaitze, Mongkiang county, from southern Manchuria at the order of Comrade Kim Il Sung.

Words cannot describe the trials the members of my company had to go through in many battles including the Waichakou battle, while breaking through the rings of the enemy encirclement.

Winter was approaching, but we were in ragged summer uniforms which could no longer protect us from cold. We ran out of provisions, and had to fight the enemy several times a day without eating and rest. We were completely exhausted.

Like packs of wolves the enemy came upon us from all directions and constantly hounded us to harass our march.

The enemy even sent up planes to scatter leaflets in a foolish attempt to demoralize us.

We never faltered. If someone sank to the ground

we helped him up and encouraged him: "Come on now. In just a few more days, we'll meet Commander Kim."

No enemy schemes, nor hardships could stop us girded with such confidence. Overcoming every difficulty bravely, we made steady progress toward Nanpaitze. We all had the great hope and conviction that only the leadership of Comrade Kim Il Sung could make the revolution overcome all severe and stern trials and gain greater momentum, and renew our strength.

As we made our way to where Comrade Kim Il Sung was, we felt as happy as if we were going to see our own father after a long separation.

It was late October that we at last reached the thick forest in Nanpaitze, Mongkiang county, where Comrade Kim Il Sung and other comrades were impatiently awaiting our arrival.

Our joy and emotion knew no bounds when we found ourselves in the warm embrace of our Commander whom we had so long looked forward to meeting.

Even now what he said after listening to our report is still fresh in my heart:

...You are the very Communists to blaze a path through such difficulties and reach here confident of the victory of the revolution. People like you are the immortals. We must live and fight when and where with faith in ultimate victory....

We were moved to tears at such a high praise of Comrade Kim Il Sung. All of us renewed our resolve to be more faithful to the revolution.

Warmly cared for by Comrade Kim Il Sung and comrades-in-arms we took rest for a few days.

Comrade Kim Il Sung himself assigned us a place beside the Headquarters to pitch tents. He saw to it that the guard duty was fulfilled only by men of the unit directly under his command so that we could take a good rest.

Under such paternal concern we were soon refreshed and made full preparations for new combat duties.

Comrade Kim Il Sung's love for his men was immeasurably deep and broad. I could note this love also in the life of the men of the unit directly under his command.

What struck us first was the neatness, orderliness and animation in their life and manner. All this impressed us very deeply.

They were always alert, cheerful and vigorous, and neat and tidy in appearance.

They had clean uniforms and new shoes on, and their cartridge-belts were filled.

During our conversation with them, we learned that in the previous winter they had gone in triumph to Matangkou throwing into the wilderness of Changpai and Linkiang a large force of the enemy who was on their heels madly. In Matangkou they built a secret camp, had a rest and even did military and political studies.

The longer we listened, the greater was our admiration. Everything we heard surpassed our imagination.

I was so envious of their life. I asked one of

them how they could lead such a composed life.

He said: "We only act as our Commander tells us. We have fought many battles, but we haven't lost a single one...."

His words made me think deeply.

We were not the only ones that had troubles. Think of them. They had operated in Changpai and the border regions, the strongholds of the enemy.

Up to the last moment, on their way to Nanpaitze they had fought many hard battles, small and big, under the direct command of Comrade Kim Il Sung, including the one at Liutaokou in Linkiang county.

This thought gave me a prick of conscience: If I had acted as he instructed, my men might have suffered less. There were only a hundred men or so and I was responsible for them.

Never did I feel so keenly that the matter of winning or losing the battle, keeping the men well fed and clothed, getting them to fight well depended entirely on how the commander cares for and loves his men and on how well he looks after his detachment.

During the week we were there the historic Nanpaitze Conference was held with the participation of the commanding officers of the First and Second Armies of the Anti-Japanese Combined Forces.

We followed closely the conference which worked out detailed plans for a fresh upsurge of the revolution.

Most important of all matters discussed at the conference were the study on the current situation

and the future strategy in the anti-Japanese guerilla warfare, problems concerning the reorganization of the First and Second Armies of the Anti-Japanese Combined Forces, and other questions of organization.

In the first place the conference criticized the "Jehol Expedition" as "Left" adventuristic action and gave careful consideration to matter of strengthening the guerilla struggle against the Japanese imperialists and adopted relevant decisions.

At the conference Comrade Kim Il Sung put forth a strategic line of developing a big-unit guerilla warfare in the light of the enemy's large-scale "punitive action." He also outlined a series of plans of organically combining this with small-unit guerilla activities, of resolutely carrying on mass political work to organize and mobilize the masses of the people while waging annihilation operations against the enemy.

On the basis of the strategic line set forth by Comrade Kim Il Sung at the conference, it was decided that the First and Second Armies of the Anti-Japanese Combined Forces should be reorganized into three route armies; the first to operate chiefly in southern Manchuria, the second mainly in Korea and Changpai county, and the third in Tunhwa, Emu and other counties. And Comrade Kim Il Sung was personally to assume command of the Second Route Army.

The plans presented by Comrade Kim Il Sung at the Nanpaitze Conference were outstanding strategic-tactical ones based on a scientific analysis of

the military-political developments and the power balance between us and the enemy at that time. They were also most brilliant and bold measures for saving the Korean revolution from the crisis and bringing a fresh upsurge in the revolution.

If these measures had not been taken to rally, reorganize and reinforce our forces in face of the great general offensive of the enemy, and if the initiative had not been firmly held against the enemy attack, our revolutionary struggle would be driven into a hopeless situation as the enemy had anticipated.

In order to secure the revolution against such a crisis, Comrade Kim Il Sung personally chose the most difficult path of advancing again to Changpai and the border regions, breaking through the forest of enemy bayonets.

Here we once again saw clearly how he displayed undaunted will for the sake of revolution and how he set examples in the revolution for others.

My heart still warms when I recall the moving scenes of parting with Comrade Kim Il Sung at Nanpaitze.

It was just before our departure.

We were rushing with last minute preparations, wishing we could follow Comrade Kim Il Sung. Suddenly comrades of the Second Route Army ran to us with many a big package.

"Comrades! These are for you. Comrade Commander has sent these gifts to you!" They laid down packages of clothes, shoes, parched-rice powder, and other things.

We were sure that these were what they had been saving for emergency. There was even underwear.

For a while we just stood there overwhelmed with gratitude at the deep solicitude of Comrade Kim Il Sung who gave out goods for emergency use even when he and his men were ready to set out on a most arduous march.

Holding the gifts of Comrade Kim Il Sung we were firmly resolved to answer his warmest love and care with greater fidelity to the revolution wherever we might go.

Following the Nanpaitze Conference the Route Armies launched large-scale guerilla operations to annihilate large numbers of the enemy forces in Korea, eastern, northern and southern Manchuria, driving the Japanese imperialists into a great panic.

We were then operating around Huatien. There we heard that the Second Route Army under the personal command of Comrade Kim Il Sung had triumphantly carried out the famous arduous march, a most difficult march, for over one hundred days and boldly crossed over again to the Musan area in the homeland.

At the report we were all overwhelmed with joy and excitement.

They marched over a hundred days from Nanpaitze to Peitatingtze, Changpai county, breaking through the forest of enemy bayonets, and boldly crossed again the Amnok river into the Musan area in the homeland over which dark clouds hang.

This would have been unthinkable without the

outstanding strategy and tactics of Comrade Kim Il Sung, his boundless fidelity to the revolution, dauntless and stubborn fighting spirit and revolutionary sweep.

This shattered to pieces the enemy's false propaganda that "the Kim Il Sung's forces had frozen to death in the forests of Changpai; they had been annihilated by the punitive forces." The might of the anti-Japanese guerillas and their brilliant victories inspired unquenchable hope and confidence in the hearts of the Korean people again.

Indeed, it brought about great changes in the struggle.

The Nanpaitze Conference can be called a turning point in the development of the anti-Japanese armed struggle.

Because of such great might of vigorously propelling the Korean revolution and because of such great leadership, our people could greet the August 15 liberation, and as proud masters of the country, set up the people's government by themselves and open the era of Chollima in this land as seen today.

Looking back with deep emotion on the time when Comrade Kim Il Sung again made the advance into the homeland breaking through the difficulties in order to save the revolution and maintain the upsurge in it at the risk of his life, I renew my firm resolve to live and fight as he did.

Today and in the future, as in the past, there will be nothing impossible for us who are under the wise leadership of Comrade Kim Il Sung; we will surely emerge victorious.

DEFEND THE REVOLUTIONARY BANNER TO THE END

JON MUN SOP

Whenever I look back on the triumphant course of the anti-Japanese armed struggle, my thoughts turn to Comrade Kim Il Sung's steady revolutionary sweep and his superb strategy and tactics.

As was always so throughout the long course of the anti-Japanese armed struggle, Comrade Kim Il Sung displayed his distinguished resourcefulness likewise in the battle in the Musan area in May, 1939 and during the march to the border region early in 1940.

The victorious Musan battle fought under the superb command of Comrade Kim Il Sung in May, 1939 dealt a telling blow at the Japanese imperialists who were then running amuck in the aggressive war against the Chinese mainland, and inspired conviction of victory in the minds of the Korean people, encouraging them further to the struggle against the Japanese imperialists.

After attacking the Musan area, we, 2nd Route Army, advanced into the Holung area east of Mt. Baekdu, where we continued operations.

The transfer of our operational centre to this area constituted another example showing Comrade Kim Il Sung's sagacity and wisdom.

After making a sweeping roundup of the members of the Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland in the Changpai area and of the Korean National Liberation Union at home, the Japanese imperialists continued to lay a strict cordon around the region southwest of Mt. Baekdu. Comrade Kim Il Sung, who most correctly grasped the prevailing situation, took a wise measure to transfer the centre of action to the region east of Mt. Baekdu. (This region had had a revolutionarily tested mass basis since the early 1930's and geographically bordered on the homeland.) There the watch of the enemy was yet not so strict.

Upon arrival in Holung county, Comrade Kim Il Sung dispatched political workers to establish contacts with the local organizations and made them organize chapters of the Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland and the Anti-Japanese Association, thus consolidating the mass basis of the revolution. Meanwhile, he organized and guided the preparatory work for administering another big blow to the enemy.

In the summer of 1939, our unit was in operation near the Olgi river. Comrade Kim Il Sung, accompanied by the Headquarters' staff, personally established contact with local people at Okdolgol, a border

village on the Duman river, on the one hand, and, on the other, assigned Comrade Kim Jun (a by-name of Comrade Li Dong Gol) to the task of conducting political work in this area to unite the masses in the revolutionary organizations and of establishing liaison with the Musan area.

Comrade Kim Il Sung, drawing on the experience in political work gained in the Changpai area, instructed the political workers to form small armed groups and carry on mobile operations. Comrade Kim Jun was left behind in the area with a few armed comrades.

At the same time, our unit was busy making ready for passing the winter.

After our unit disappeared from the valley of the Olgi river, the enemies, concentrating their "punitive forces" there, searched every nook of the mountains all through the summer, but they could not discover any trace of us. Then they set up the "Yabu Punitive Headquarters" in Kilin and stationed their armed forces—units of the "Kanto Army," the "Japanese expeditionary army in China," the puppet Manchurian army, the gendarmerie, the police and the self-defence corps—in every district for a long time, and placed the whole area under strict watch.

The enemies made every vicious manoeuvre such as setting up the so-called Kilin Commission under the "Yabu Punitive Headquarters" in order to work out "plans for punitive operations." The Commission comprised the heads of army units, judicial organs, police stations, administrative organs, intelligence

corps, and "experts on punitive operations against communist bandits."

Thus, in the second half of 1939 large "punitive forces" of the enemy which had been long stationed in every valley of the Holung area combed high mountains and deep valleys.

It was usually unimaginable to take the initiative and launch an attack on the enemy in such a situation.

Comrade Kim Il Sung, however, emphasized that it was all the more necessary in the prevailing situation to act with vigor and daring. He undertook quick operations to deal successive blows to the enemy at the weakest point.

Late in the autumn of 1939, Comrade Kim Il Sung led our unit to Tunhua county from the Holung-Antu county borderland.

When our unit arrived at the backwoods of Tunhua we first attacked a lumber station at Liukosung and then another at Chiahsintzu.

In attacking those stations under the direction of Comrade Kim Il Sung, we aimed to break up the enemy's "punitive forces" massed in the Holung-Antu area that came in hot pursuit after our unit. At the same time we wanted to reinforce our ranks by enlisting workers of the lumber stations.

The enemy was quite astounded at this blitzkrieg tactics by which we slipped out of the Holung area and attacked the big lumber stations in Tunhua like lightning. The enemy had thought that the communist force could not break through his cordon, however elusive it might be. Moreover, he had little

imagined that our unit would advance northward.

The enemy, pulling himself together upon receiving the urgent report of the crushing defeat suffered at Liukosung and Chiahsintzu, rushed his troops to the backwoods of Tunhua.

But by this time our unit, having loaded ourselves with a lot of booty and enlisted a large number of recruits, had already arrived in the Antu-Fusung county border territory.

Following the Chiahsintzu battle Comrade Kim Il Sung personally made a speech before the hundreds of workers who had come out for carrying the booty on their back.

The tenor of his speech made before the lumber workers is still alive in my memory. The gist of his speech is as follows:

...The peoples of Korea and China are groaning under the cruel oppression and exploitation by the Japanese imperialist aggressors.

We are deprived of our country and all our rights, and the bitter fate of a ruined people has befallen us.

A ruined people, the Korean saying goes, is more miserable than a dog in a house of death.

A ruined people! What shame! You are true sons of the people and should all shoulder the destiny of the country and the people.

How can we assume the attitude of an onlooker when our beloved parents, brothers and sisters are being trampled underfoot by the heinous Japanese gangs!

Our guerilla army is an army of the people that is fighting against the Japanese imperialist aggressors for the country's freedom and liberation.

If you want to see your dear fatherland free and independent and cast off the shameful life of a ruined people, you must bravely fight against the Japanese imperialists.

Anyone who is willing to fight with arms against the enemy together with us, join the guerilla army!...

When Comrade Kim Il Sung finished his speech, a young worker sitting in the back row stood up, raising his hand and shouting, "I'm going to fight!" And he was followed by many workers who rose and offered their services to the guerilla army.

Thus, more than 200 men including the ones already recruited at Liukosung were newly assigned to our unit to expand and reinforce it further.

In high feather, all members of our unit marched toward the Antu-Fusung county borderland.

When our unit came near Paishihtan, Fusung county, Comrade Kim Il Sung gave orders to prepare for bivouacking for a night and to set up a temporary stage, although it was yet some time before sunset.

Everyone received this news with joy. We felled aspen trees, and with them built a spacious temporary stage. With tents we made a curtain and posted the programme of performances.

Comrade Kim Il Sung personally directed the performances.

With a whistle, the curtain opened, and a variegated repertoire was presented consisting of cho-

ruses, solos, dances, and even a sketch showing guerilla activities.

We were all in a hilarious mood. Newcomers, above all, could not but wonder at all this—the sudden appearance of a big stage in the deep forests and presentation of the colourful programme.

Some Chinese recruits voluntarily jumped on to the stage and sang Chinese folk songs to the accompaniment of the fiddle.

Our life was full of revolutionary optimism and our confidence in victory was greater than ever, even amidst the double and treble encirclements of a large enemy force that was closing in on the Tunhua area to entrap us.

After that, Comrade Kim Il Sung organized and guided military and political studies at the Paishihtan secret camp in the Sungari valley. In such difficult situation, it was hardly imaginable to stay at one place very long and conduct military and political studies in a big way.

But, judging from the enemy's movements, he decided that the enemy would not be able to spot us for some time, and drew up a bold plan for an intensive training of the freshmen.

This was a very wise step in anticipation of larger-scale operations that might take place some day.

Comrade Kim Il Sung divided the whole term of training into two stages. The men were supposed to finish the training course in the first stage and go over it once again in the second stage to acquaint themselves more thoroughly with the subject. This

was a perspective, militant plan making it possible for the men to receive sufficient military and political training to cope with the enemy even after the first course if circumstances prevented them from continuing through the second stage.

The method of training, too, was militant.

It was decided that the companies and the individual men compete with each other in military and political training, and that prizes, first, second and third, be awarded according to the results.

From the first day the military and political training was intensive. Political study was conducted in each company and the political instructors gave lectures.

Some of the freshmen were little learned, so senior comrades taught them in their studies individually.

The illiterates were taught some letters or made to learn by heart a slogan or a few lines of sentences each day.

They also adopted the method of teaching them a song dealing with the Ten-point Programme of the Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland to enable them to grasp its content.

Thanks to the various ways of study thought out directly by Comrade Kim Il Sung, all the recruits became able to read and write in a month, and their political awakening rose further.

In particular he put stress on military training, while organizing political study.

We learned not only the guerilla tactics but also the art of war of a regular army.

Comrade Kim Il Sung personally taught the commanding officers and the staff of Headquarters how to train a regular army, and always gave personal guidance in tactics and target shooting.

To this day I cannot forget how he taught us the knack of skillfully disassembling and reassembling any kind of guns and how he personally showed us the art of shooting.

In those days we were using arms taken from the enemy, so they were of various kinds and different in handling. Few could handle all of them with ease.

But Comrade Kim Il Sung skillfully disassembled and reassembled any kind of machine guns, rifles and revolvers and set example for us by his fine marksmanship.

Determined to become worthy soldiers who were versed like him in tactics, arms, shooting, we devoted ourselves heart and soul to military training.

When the first stage was thus finished we felt ourselves much more accomplished in political and military training. On the closing day of the first stage Comrade Kim Il Sung summed up the results of competition in the military and political training and awarded a watch to the first prize winner and fountainpens to the second and third.

That night, all of us were happy and fell quickly into a sound sleep. But there was a sudden emergency call at midnight. All got ready for action, quickly taking up their arms and accouterments, striking camp and packing up cooking-utensils in a twinkling.

The Guards Company commander and regimental commanders reported to Comrade Kim Il Sung about emergency alignment.

He inspected the ranks and then went round the places where the tents had been pitched.

There was nothing left, arms or accouterments, not even a scrap of paper.

He was very satisfied with the result of the emergency call.

Summing up the emergency call, he said to this effect:

...It is a remarkable success that the freshmen have been trained so well as this in a matter of only one month. As I see it, you are fully capable of making a sortie into Korea even now....

Some ten days after the second stage trainings started, we were compelled to leave the place without finishing the course. The enemy discovered the location of our secret camp and started closing in upon us with a large force early in 1940.

Finding our whereabouts, the enemy concentrated all his "punitive forces" on the attack against us, saying that if he "wiped out Kim Il Sung's unit" it would mean the "end of all the communist bandits."

While persistently pursuing our unit, the enemy stationed his troops on mountain ridges and in ravines, where he thought we might pass by. Those troops kept contact with one another by wireless. The enemy was really desperate.

Besides, the enemy, using the "Concordia As-

sociation" and "Sinson-dae" composed of his running-dogs, conducted false propaganda and used every possible trick in order to make us submit.

In every mountain and every ravine were scattered numerous leaflets with: "You are the only ones left. Don't resist recklessly any longer, but submit." To make us surrender, the enemy even sent out turncoats. He also left poisoned cakes and food in mountain huts. He resorted to all sorts of vicious tricks.

Faced with the enemy's offensive, a handful of cowards defected and surrendered.

With the appearance of turncoats, Comrade Kim Il Sung said determinedly:

...Those guys are quite useless even if they had remained in our unit. As you know, one of our revolutionary songs says: "Let the coward go his way, but we will defend the Red banner." We will defend the banner of the Korean revolution to the end....

The situation was very difficult, but he worked out a positive and offensive plan to advance and develop the Korean revolution. Instead of avoiding the enemy, he made a detailed plan for another sortie to the border area, to Musan, where the enemy force was concentrated.

Comrade Kim Il Sung dispatched a guerilla fighter to the Changpyong area, Musan county, to find out in detail the situation there. He intended to make again the march into the homeland to strike a crushing blow at the Japanese imperialists and inspire the Korean people who were suffering in a living hell with fresh confidence in the restoration of the fatherland and in national regeneration.

He led his unit to the border area through the strict watch of the enemy, throwing the enemy into confusion with his subtle tactics.

By that time our provisions had run out and we were faced with grave difficulty. The bean cakes we had obtained at the lumber stations had run out by the time our unit crossed Hualatzu and arrived at the valley of Tamalukou.

Comrade Kim Il Sung sent out a reconnoitering party to the Tamalukou lumber station in preparation for attacking it for the purpose of obtaining food.

Our raid on Tamalukou brought us a lot of booty including hundreds of sacks of wheat flour.

After the battle Comrade Kim Il Sung led our unit in retreating into the dense forest of Hualatzu on the border of Holung and Antu counties, swiftly covering our tracks as we went.

The enemy rushed to Tamalukou, there hitting our trail, but Comrade Kim Il Sung gave the enemy the slip with his clever resourcefulness. So the enemy had to return empty-handed to Tamalukou. The Japanese stamped with chagrin and snarled: "We are again nicely taken in by the Communist army." Out of vexation the enemy regrouped their force and began to comb the valley of Tamalukou.

Having deftly thrown the enemy off the scent, our unit by now was already bivouacking near Hualatzu. Comrade Kim Il Sung had estimated how long it would take the enemy to catch up, and laid plans to deal a blow to the pursuing enemy.

Sure enough, as had been foreseen by Comrade

Kim Il Sung, enemy scouts stole up to the sentry line of our unit at night. But when hit hard by us, they were frightened out of their senses and fled, leaving a military map behind.

Comrade Kim Il Sung, after examining the map, ordered Regimental Commander O Baek Ryong as follows:

"The enemy is close on our heels. If we do not check him, he will keep coming in pursuit of us. You take some of your men and go to-night and teach the Japanese a lesson."

It was not long after the regimental commander left the camping ground when we heard deafening bursts of gun-shots rending the air down below in the ravine.

After some time Regimental Commander O Baek Ryong returned and reported to Comrade Kim Il Sung. He said that the enemy soldiers had made bonfires here and there, and were noisily bawling out orders to peasants forcibly mobilized to fell trees. So even when his small group approached and was right under their noses, they were quite unaware. Then, Comrade O Baek Ryong and his men struck a hard blow to the enemy and then slipped sideways out of the scene, leaving the excited enemy men blindly fighting each other.

At this, Comrade Kim Il Sung laughingly said, "The enemy will not come out in pursuit now."

Sure enough, the enemy did not pursue us any more from the next day. We learned later that on that night the enemy soldiers, fighting among them-

selves, killed over sixty and wounded many more than were killed. With this the enemy turned tail and ran away in great haste, taking the wounded and the dead bodies along with them.

Our unit went up to a hill in Hualatzu and took a rest there for a few days.

After the enemy force, tired out with their hopeless pursuit, went back to their quarters, Comrade Kim Il Sung led again our unit to Changpyong.

This was towards the end of March in 1940.

Our unit began to descend a high mountain along a sunny ridge where the snow was thawing, heading for Tamalukou.

Before long we came across the peasants who had been forcibly mobilized to transport the enemy's munitions. They told us that a large enemy force was coming in pursuit of us. Just at this time, some sort of illness broke out in our unit. We had to carry the sick on stretchers and this slowed down the pace of our march.

Comrade Kim Il Sung ordered our unit to a halt towards daybreak and said that the sick should be given something hot to drink, even if the situation was critical and called for quick action.

After they were given thin gruel, Comrade Kim Il Sung chose a few men and ordered them to slip out, taking a roundabout way carrying some food with them, and build a secret camp, where they could care for the sick. Again we were then deeply moved by his profound care for his men.

After sending the sick to a safe place, we again

started on the march, but he instructed us to change our course of march southeastward, instead of heading for Changpyong. Now our unit bore away from the direction of the border area and went down along the valley leading to the Tamalukou lumber station.

While on the march, Comrade Kim Il Sung kept studying the lay of the land and consulting his map.

That day he ordered us to bivouac earlier than usual just short of Tamalukou for reasons unknown to us. This was quite unusual tactics in view of the enemy following on our heels.

Just before dawn next morning, Comrade Kim Il Sung discussed the unit's course of action with the regimental commanders.

"Today we must smite the chasing enemy. If we allow him to tag us all the way to Musan, it will be difficult for us to attack Changpyong. Not only that, it will be difficult to slip out after the attack even when we succeed in the assault. We must first deal with the pursuers, even if we have to put off our advance on the Musan area...."

With this, he issued combat orders.

This was the prelude to the famous battle of Hungchiho, in which the Maeda unit of the Japanese army was annihilated in a flash.

The blow dealt to the Maeda unit was so severe that the Fengtien unit (a large force of the puppet Manchurian army) which was following the Maeda unit, could not come near, but only fired at random in the distance until the battle ended. The enemy's garrison troops rushed from Samjang across

the border, too, dared not approach the scene but merely fired their guns from a distance.

"Look at those guys," said Comrade Kim Il Sung with a smile. "They are too much of a coward to come nearer. By that distant firing they seem to be begging us to open the way for them. Well, let's give them what they're asking for with the machine guns."

We showered bullets upon the enemy with the six machine guns we had just captured. Then, the enemy beat a hasty retreat, not even firing from a distance any longer.

But Comrade Kim Il Sung calculated beforehand that the enemy, though struck with horror in the Hungchiho battle, would be sure to search blatantly the border area, come desperately in pursuit of our unit. And, on this basis, he quietly evacuated our unit in the direction of Hualatzu.

In a few days the enemy's "punitive forces" were concentrated in the border area and Holung and Antu counties.

The situation on the eastern skirts of Mt. Baekdu was such that there indeed was no room for stirring an inch.

Our unit, however, continued to advance through those difficulties under the leadership of Comrade Kim Il Sung who was distinguished by steady revolutionary sweep, a fighting spirit of taking the lead under whatever difficult circumstances and striking successive blows at the foe by taking advantage of the enemy's weak points, and by brilliant flexible tactics.

Even under such a difficult situation Comrade Kim Il Sung dispatched political workers to Chijen-kang and Liushutsun in Antu county in order to unite the masses around the Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland and the Anti-Japanese Association, thus uninterruptedly consolidating the revolutionary basis, and, on the other hand, he organized many offensive operations, dealing one blow after another to the enemy.

When our unit, having slipped out of the enemy's encircling net, reached Santaokou, Antu county, Comrade Kim Il Sung planned bold operations to attack three villages simultaneously, so that the enemy could not make head or tail of it.

The 7th and 8th Regiments and the Guards Company descended on three villages in different directions at one time.

To the enemy it came like a bolt from the blue. He was thrown into utter confusion. When the big communities which he had believed quite safe were struck severely all at once, the enemy trembled with fear, murmuring, "These troops must be beyond number."

After a good while, the thunderstruck enemy gathered up the remaining "punitive forces" from the adjacent areas in great haste and came in hot chase of us.

But our unit covered its traces tactfully by taking a snowless path on the sunny side.

The enemy searched in vain for our unit all night long, and had no choice but to return empty-handed.

In this way, in the whole course of the arduous armed struggle, the anti-Japanese guerilla army led by Comrade Kim Il Sung defended the revolutionary banner to the end, built up firm revolutionary basis everywhere they went, extended and strengthened the ranks of the guerilla units, and won every battle by superb strategy and tactics. Herein lies the very reason that the Korean revolution was able to hold out tenaciously to the end, that the Korean people did not lose confidence in the restoration of the fatherland in the stifling atmosphere of a hell on earth in those days, and that they could meet the great event of the fatherland's liberation with full preparations.

Whenever I think of this, I am deeply touched by his immortal contribution to the Korean revolution, and at the same time I am firmly determined to devote myself to the prosperity and development of the fatherland according to the teachings of Comrade Kim Il Sung.

"STUDYING IS THE FIRST AND FOREMOST TASK FOR THE REVOLUTIONARIES"

HAN IK SU

"Studying is the first and foremost task for the revolutionaries" is what Comrade Kim Il Sung used to say to us guerillas in the years of the anti-Japanese armed struggle.

Comrade Kim Il Sung directed profound attention to the studies of the guerillas and personally set us examples in this, even when the units were in any difficult circumstances.

Upset by the stepped-up activities of our Revolutionary Army which shook the whole area of Changpai and the border of Korea, including the Bochonbo and Chiensanfeng battles in 1937, the enemy planned a large-scale "punitive expedition" against our guerilla unit with the object of "strengthening his rear" following his invasion of the territory of China proper.

Comrade Kim Il Sung, foreseeing the enemy's

vicious plan, lured the forces of the enemy's "punitive expedition" into the remote snow-bound backwoods of Linkiang and Changpai where they were left to grope about blindly, and then quietly led the guerilla unit out of the territory. When the unit reached Matangkou, he ordered us to build secret camps and prepare for study.

Comrade Kim Il Sung personally took part in the building of the camps and, in the meantime, worked out an overall programme of military and political studies for the winter, organized study groups, selected and allocated lecturers.

Taking account of the fact that there were both persons of a high knowledge level and raw recruits who scarcely knew how to read and write, he ascertained the knowledge levels of individual guerillas through commanders, political workers or directly, and, on this basis, formed study groups—the self-education group and the other the alphabet group.

The self-education group comprised the responsible persons of the Party branches, company commanders, political commissars and the aide-de-camp whose political and theoretical levels were fairly high; this group was guided directly by Comrade Kim Il Sung.

The basic textbooks for this group were the "Ten-point Programme of the Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland" and the "Problems of Leninism."

Studies in the self-education group were conducted primarily by the methods of studying by oneself and discussions.

Upon finishing lectures on each subject, he used to set problems such as "On the character of the people's revolutionary government to be established in the future," "On correlations between the Party and the government," "On the motive force of the revolution," etc., and saw to it that everyone studied them by himself before taking part in discussions.

Particularly in the discussions it was demanded of everyone to combine such problems as the conditions of various classes and sections of the population in Korea, the livelihood of the workers and peasants, their strike struggles and tenancy disputes, with practical matters arising in the guerilla life and the tasks confronting the unit.

After leading the debaters to draw conclusions by themselves through discussions, he assessed the observations of each comrade, correcting what was wrong, and then summed up the study.

The alphabet group comprised the rank and file. In this group the company political commissars and members of the secretariat gave lectures chiefly on the "Ten-point Programme of the Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland" and the modern history of Korea (from the seizure of Korea by the Japanese imperialists to the 1930's), and the method of study was a little different from that applied in the self-education group.

Here the main stress was put on lectures and, with a view to consolidating the knowledge one had acquired, discussions were also held. After finishing lectures on a certain subject, concrete problems,

such as "How the workers are fighting at home," "How the Japanese imperialists oppress the Korean people," "How the landowners exploit the peasants" etc., were given and everybody was encouraged to take part in the discussions on those problems. Debates were held on a voluntary principle and if there was one who took little part in the discussions, the lecturer would direct questions to him.

As for those members of the alphabet group who knew little how to read and write, the cadres took upon themselves individually to teach them our letters and Chinese characters.

Among the textbooks and reference books used in the military and political studies at Matangkou were the "Ten-point Programme of the Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland," "Problems of Leninism," "Manifesto of the Communist Party," "The Anti-fascist Popular Front," "Reader of the Peasants," etc. Of them some were printed booklets, but most of them were booklets in mimeograph form.

The books of "Problems of Leninism" in mimeograph form, for example, were sufficient to go round, one to each platoon. Other textbooks were more plentiful, so all could have access to them in turn.

The time-table for study was so arranged that the alphabet group sat in class in the morning and the members of the self-education group attended to their studies in the afternoon when the rank and file were at military drill.

Comrade Kim Il Sung always emphasized that

each lecturer should give instruction in an easy and convincing manner by using material taken from real life and set an excellent pattern for the instruction in his own lectures.

On each problem he conducted his lecture in an easy and interesting way by citing living examples.

Each word uttered by Comrade Kim Il Sung struck a responsive cord in the audience, and when his lecture was over its keynote remained with everybody as a living experience, not as mere academic knowledge.

His lectures on the "Ten-point Programme of the Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland" made a deep impression on our minds, for he expounded the subject by citing examples from the hard lot each guerilla had had to bear.

Comrade Kim Il Sung knew thoroughly the life of everyone of us before joining the guerilla unit, so he pointed to living examples from our life before our joining up to facilitate our understanding in studies. We, therefore, could grasp the gist of the Programme of the Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland easily with the help of those examples taken from our own personal experience. Indeed, his explanation on the motive force of the revolution at that time was so illuminating and convincing that still to this day I can retell his words by rote.

Comrade Kim Il Sung analysed the conditions of each class and section of the population, pointing out that because our country was a colonial and semi-feudal state under the occupation of Japanese im-

perialism, its economy was suffering from extreme backwardness and going to decay and almost all the classes and sections were groaning under the barbarous national oppression and cruel exploitation by Japanese imperialism.

His words reminded us vividly of our own hard life in the past, and the hapless lot and conditions of factory workers whom we had known well or the peasants of our own villages with whom we had tilled mountainside plots and had been subjected to all sorts of oppression and exploitation together, the school teachers, the owners of the rice mills or the shop-keepers of our own villages.

Even now I clearly remember the substance of his words, which ran:

...In our country which is groaning under national oppression and held in bondage by Japanese imperialism, the intellectuals and even national capitalists, to say nothing of the workers and peasants, in fact all except a handful of pro-Japanese running-dogs, hate Japanese imperialism. If all sections of the people who entertain the anti-Japanese spirit rise and struggle in unity, they will make a great force. The Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland was formed with this in view.

Even a capitalist will add to our strength when, moved by national conscience, he hates and turns against the Japanese imperialists.

It is therefore necessary to unite broad sections of the population in the Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland and educate them to hate and oppose Japanese imperialism.

It may be that the national capitalists and some other sections, who are taking part in the revolution for the present, will turn against the revolution later on. Yet, we ought to educate them well in the anti-Japanese spirit and take them along with us farther....

After listening to such an easy-to-understand lecture, we used to follow it with a symposium, each expressing his own opinion freely. This would stamp the main points on our mind and we would never forget them.

At the symposium, the discussion was very heated. When one set forth his own opinion about a subject on the basis of his studies on what he had learned and of his own experience and knowledge, another would put forward his own opinion to supplement or refute the former's on the basis of his personal experience and knowledge.

Impressed on my memory still to this day is, among other things, a discussion we had on the question of the intelligentsia.

At the time, some comrades argued that it was hardly possible to accept the intellectuals into membership in the Party, for their family background was unsavoury.

Others refuted this argument by referring only to the positive aspects of the intellectuals.

Debate on the question would go on, with lengthy speeches on both sides. Because there was a nearly equal number of persons on both sides of the fence, and both sides, failing to approach the question from a comprehensive viewpoint, tried to

give weight to a specific aspect only. So neither side could prevail over the other in the argument.

While summing up the discussion, Comrade Kim Il Sung emphasized that it was always wrong to make a one-sided examination of matters and explained by concrete examples that the intelligentsia, too, had merits as well as shortcomings. He went on in the following veins:

...In the future when our country is liberated, we shall have to carry out the tasks of the democratic revolution and build socialism. Then we shall not be able to advance society farther unless we have attained knowledge on all matters. Knowledge is very important pabulum in our revolutionary cause. We ourselves are therefore required to gain a great store of knowledge quickly and, at the same time, it is necessary to remould large numbers of intellectuals and induce them to devote their lives to the struggle for the revolution.

The intellectuals should be accepted into Party membership and educated in the ideology of the working class. Only then will they discard their wavering attitude and overcome their shortcomings quickly, and turn into good intellectuals who would even lay down their lives willingly for the sake of the revolution....

He gave us a correct understanding of all questions, by helping us to widen our political and theoretical horizon by ourselves through debates and by elucidating questions which we could not solve by ourselves.

Also, he would lead our debates in a very interesting way.

Studying by the method of debates enabled us clearly and firmly to grasp the ideological essence of any problem we studied.

Though Comrade Kim Il Sung was busy giving lectures and guiding the debates in the self-education group, he found time every day to see how studies were going on by personally attending the lectures and debates in the alphabet group, and would straighten out what was wrong in good time.

He always emphasized that in the alphabet group the lectures should be given in plain and easy words in consideration of the level of each.

Comrade Kim Il Sung often came and attended the lectures given in the alphabet group. One day the lecture was given by a comrade from the secretariat who spoke with great fluency, adorning his speech with many difficult terms.

When the lecture was over, Comrade Kim Il Sung called together the lecturers and said to them:

...The method used by this lecturer is beyond the comprehension of the audience. A lecturer should make a deeper study of the teaching material and know the level of his listeners well....

Then he took up a subject which figured in the lecture of the day, and explained how the subject had to be treated with such and such instances cited in illustration to enable the guerillas to understand easily and grasp the truths correctly.

In the meantime, besides general lectures and discussions, individual assignments were organized

in detail for the better informed comrades always to give assistance to the comrades at lower levels in their studies. For this, the whole body of guerillas was divided into two categories, one better learned and the other with a lower knowledge level. Individual assignments were discussed and decided upon at a Party meeting.

Those who were designated to give assistance to the lagging comrades lived with them and carried out their assignments given by the Party organization without fail.

A plan for individual guidance was worked out, according to the level of each, with such concrete targets as "To memorize all the Korean letters and the multiplication table in 15 days' time," "To learn by memory the Ten-point Programme of the Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland within a week," or "To read through the booklet 'The Anti-Fascist Popular Front' in ten days."

And at the time, it was also Comrade Kim Il Sung who undertook the task of helping the greatest number of comrades in their studies and carried it out most admirably.

Comrade Kim Il Sung not only took it upon himself to assist in the studies of all members of the Guards Company, but personally took charge of all of the most backward comrades of the unit and guided them in their studies.

He told everyone of the Guards Company to memorize a few Korean letters a day or a few Chinese characters and checked up every day after the evening meal on whether he had carried out the task.

He not only taught with zeal but told everyone to ask questions without hesitation.

When someone came to him with a question, Comrade Kim Il Sung would put aside all the work in hand no matter how pressing it might have been, so long as it was not concerned with military operations, and answered his question scrupulously before he returned to his work again.

He gave me a book, "On Marxism," with instructions to read a few pages everyday, saying: "To acquire knowledge one must read tirelessly. A certain amount of reading will awaken you to truth...."

For some time at first, I went to him for help whenever I struck a knot. Each time, he put aside the work he had been occupied with or closed the book he had been reading and explained the problem methodically till I caught the point.

Thus, I would go and bother him with questions several times every evening, but before long it occurred to me that I ought not to interfere so often with his important work on account of my study.

So, from that time on I refrained from going to him for assistance even when problems beyond my comprehension cropped up.

Then, one day Comrade Kim Il Sung called me and said: "You don't come asking questions these days. So, probably you've got no more question to ask. Is that it?"

I mumbled something about managing it myself by taking counsel with other comrades on difficult points in the book.

At this, he asked me to recount the content of the chapters I had read recently.

I was in for it then. Never before had I been put in such a cold sweat as at that time. For I simply could not pretend to know what I had scampered through without understanding the meaning. I got into a perspiration trying to retell what I had only half comprehended.

Comrade Kim Il Sung laughed and said:

"There you are! You can't get the correct meaning of a thing when you merely skim over it without delving down into its essence. From now on, whenever you come upon something you can't understand, you must be sure to come to me for an explanation. This you must bear in mind in your studies...."

After that I no more felt shy of going to him to ask questions. I made it a rule to ask him at once about all things I could not understand. Thus, I began to make progress. He was very much pleased with my zeal; at times when I went to him with questions to ask, he would say: "I owe much to you, for you make me study a lot."

Such was the way Comrade Kim Il Sung guided everyone in studies, and, above all, he emphasized that study was the loftiest revolutionary duty.

Here is an episode. One day Comrade Kim Il Sung had a talk with Comrade Pak Chang Sun about his studies. Comrade Pak was a newcomer and, being a son of a poor family, had not had an opportunity to learn to read or write before joining the

guerilla unit. When asked about how he was managing with his studies, he answered:

"Comrade Commander, I've got quite a muddled head. I can't learn letters. I think I had better do more rifle shooting practice, in order to finish off more Japanese imperialists instead of wasting time learning letters."

Upon hearing him say so, Comrade Kim Il Sung pointed to a young oak tree standing in front of them and asked Comrade Pak:

"What do you think this tree is fit for?"

Having been brought up in a peasant family, he replied without hesitation:

"I think it good for the helve of an ax."

"That's right," said Comrade Kim Il Sung. "The tree is of convenient size for an ax helve.... Now the case is just the same with the revolution itself. Only a man who knows well what is needed and what is to be done will be able to make the revolution. But one who had not already learned about trees would not be able to tell what kind of a tree is good for an ax helve.

"As for finishing off as many Japanese imperialists as possible, you can't do that if you know nothing. With a rifle alone you cannot beat the enemy...."

These words of Comrade Kim Il Sung went home to the heart of Comrade Pak Chang Sun. He reflected deeply:

Indeed, I have to know what is needed and how to attack the enemy to win the battle. And to know it I ought to study!

He thought this truth must be grasped not only by himself. Other comrades, too, must be brought to realize it correctly.

He hurried straight away to the company and gathered other comrades to tell them what Comrade Kim Il Sung had said to him. He said:

"With rifles alone it's impossible to beat the Japanese robbers. I've come to the full realization that knowledge is essential for victory in battle. From now on I'll study with heart and soul."

His speech brought a keener realization to the recruits of the importance of study. Some of the recruits who had been keen on marksmanship and tactical training, but had not been much interested in study, got down to their studies in good earnest after this.

But one comrade remained as averse to study as ever.

He would say he could manage any difficult task but study, and refused to learn, occupying himself only with target practice all the time.

He was a headache to the company commander and the commissar.

No matter who told him to study, he would reject curtly with: "It's true I'm no good at studies, but I'll be second to none in killing the Japanese imperialists. So don't bother about me, please."

His case came to the knowledge of Comrade Kim Il Sung. After giving some thought to the matter, he wrote a letter and called the orderly whom he told to convey it to the comrade in question. Then he added:

"Arrange things beforehand so that nobody will read him this letter...."

When the letter was handed to the comrade, he did not know what to do.

Overjoyed by the fact that he had the honour of receiving an autograph letter directly from Comrade Commander, and impatient to know its message, he went round with the letter beseeching his comrades to read it to him.

At first in the company and then in the regiment he tried to find someone among his intimate friends who would tell him what the letter was about.

But everyone declined his request tactfully on one pretext or another.

The recruit became irritated. He was at a loss what to do.

He resented their refusal to comply with his request, but could do nothing about it.

At the end of his tether, he went to Comrade Kim Il Sung with the letter, and said:

"Comrade Commander... I could find nobody who would read me the letter so I had to come to you...."

Silently Comrade Kim Il Sung received the letter and, unfolding it, read the content to the man.

It was about an urgent task to be carried out by the comrade, but now it turned out that the designated time limit had already passed.

He stood there stock-still in his tracks, his head hanging and sweating profusely. He was filled with

remorse, realizing it was all his fault because he had not learned to read.

Comrade Kim Il Sung spoke to him calmly and in a gentle voice:

...Suppose you received a message from headquarters while operating behind the enemy line. What would be the outcome if you could not read the message and so failed to carry out in good time the task specified in it? No doubt it would do a great harm to the revolution, wouldn't it?

Devolving upon us is a great duty. We are charged with the lofty revolutionary duty to beat the Japanese imperialists and liberate the fatherland as soon as possible. If we are ignorant of Marxism-Leninism and know not how to educate and mobilize the masses, how can we hope to fulfil this revolutionary duty?

That is why we should learn and learn.

Studying is the first and foremost task for the revolutionaries. We must study tirelessly at all places and at all times, however exacting and difficult....

These words brought tears to the eyes of the recruit. He acknowledged his fault and firmly vowed to Comrade Kim Il Sung that he would surely learn how to read and write in a brief time and would then study Marxism-Leninism.

Thenceforth, he applied himself perseveringly to studies in whatever trying and busy circumstances, and at length became a militarily and politically competent cadre.

Great successes were achieved in the military

and political studies for the winter conducted at the Matangkou secret camp.

Indeed, the studies at Matangkou were for us a college of revolution, as it were, which fully armed us politically and ideologically.

It was at this very college that those recruits who did not know well the fundamentals of Marxism-Leninism, learned to read and write and grew up into able cadres who could analyze the situation in the fatherland from the Marxist-Leninist standpoint.

Even now, when I am busy with my work and run across some complicated jobs once in a while, I find myself neglecting the study. But, when I recall to my mind how I studied at Matangkou I feel the prick of conscience and apply myself to studying harder.

Our realities which make vigorous progress at the speed of Chollima require competent commanding personnel who has revolutionary sweep, better qualified politically and practically in all domains. It is therefore an important task for cadres to bring their level of leadership closer to revolutionary stamina of the masses who rise up upholding the Party's correct lines and policies, and to the rapidly changing and developing realities.

Only when we pay chief attention to study in accordance with the instruction of Comrade Kim Il Sung that **"everyone should learn upholding the motto 'Let us all Party members study,'"** can we fulfil our assigned revolutionary tasks satisfactorily.

GUIDANCE IN REVOLUTIONARY PUBLICATIONS

LIM CHUN CHU

Comrade Kim Il Sung taught us in the early days of the anti-Japanese armed struggle, that as weapons were to a revolutionary army in winning victory over the enemy, so were publications, an incisive, militant and ideological weapon, to a revolutionary organization in leading the masses to victory.

He made every effort to publish militant revolutionary books, even sparing time from harsh battles.

He personally organized and guided the work of publishing the newspaper *Sogwang* (Dawn) and *Samil Wolgan* (Monthly March the First), both devoted to the general affairs of the Korean revolution, and the army newspaper *Jongsori* (Sound of a Bell) as well as a number of pamphlets.

It was at a meeting held in Nanhutou in February 1936, that mapping out the future of our revolution,

Comrade Kim Il Sung set forth a strategic line of forming a broad anti-Japanese united front and developing the revolution on the mass basis, of making organizational and ideological preparations for the founding of a Party, and of bringing the theatre of the anti-Japanese armed struggle closer to the homeland.

And, as one of the ways for carrying out this strategic line Comrade Kim Il Sung also drew up a plan for publishing political papers and periodicals. In the course of the arduous march from Nanhutou to Changpai via Fusung and Tungkang, he gave himself up to writing books in which he theoretically expounded the character and tasks of our revolution and the duties of the Communists, while making preparations for issuing political papers, an organ of the Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland and other periodicals.

Thus, on December 1, 1936 Comrade Kim Il Sung published the monthly *Samil Wolgan*, the organ of the Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland, with a view to enlisting all sections of the people into the anti-Japanese united national front. Then in May 1937 he launched the revolutionary army's political paper *Sogwang*. (If I remember aright, the name *Sogwang* meant the dawn of the Korean revolution.) Along with this, he saw that at home Comrade Pak Dal published *Hwajonmin* (Tillers of Hillside Plots) as the organ of the Korean National Liberation Union.

I find it difficult now to remember the content of each article of the newspaper or the magazines.

Yet, I think I can remember enough articles to have a correct understanding of their character.

Still now vivid in my memory is the treatise of Comrade Kim Il Sung printed in the first issue of *Sogwang* under the heading "The Tasks of the Korean Communists."

This treatise was a programmatic document which made a Marxist-Leninist analysis of the prospect of the development of our revolution and the situation prevailing at the time, and, on this basis, clearly outlined the tasks of the Korean Communists.

It served a decisive blow at the factional strife and opportunism which had to be combated and eliminated in the Korean communist movement and marked a new stage in the development of the movement.

Sogwang carried Comrade Kim Il Sung's writings on the line of the anti-fascist popular front and on the problem of the anti-Japanese united front in Korea, the prospect of the Korean revolution and how to face it on our own initiative, the character and motive power of the Korean revolution, the character of the future people's revolutionary government in Korea, the problem of the worker-peasant alliance, the correlation between the international communist movement and the Korean communist movement, and the orientations of the activities of the Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland and the Korean National Liberation Union—all devoted to giving an orientation and an ideological basis in the develop-

ment of the Korean revolution and in the preparation for the founding of a Party.

The paper also offered much of its space for local event reflecting the Korean people's vital demands of life and their fighting slogans and for military correspondence on the activities of neighbouring units. And most of the news and correspondence, too, presented the urgent fighting tasks confronting the people, local organizations and the revolutionary masses.

Samil Wolgan was another revolutionary publication different in character from *Sogwang*.

It carried in series simple articles giving explanations to the "Ten-point Programme of the Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland." As these articles explained each point of the programme in an easy manner with illustration, they enabled even those who are innocent of theoretical knowledge to gain a good grasp of it. Most of these explanatory articles on the "Ten-point Programme" were also written by Comrade Kim Il Sung.

In those days Comrade Kim Il Sung gave lectures on the programme for two or three hours every day and then on the same night arranged his lecture into an article.

These articles indeed provided ideological food for the education of hundreds of thousands of members of the Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland and the unorganized masses.

"The Cause of Failure of the March First Movement," "The Cause of Failure of the Independence

Army," "The Lesson of the Kwangju Students' Incident," and other articles giving an analysis to the experiences and lessons of the Korean revolution in the past formed the main contents of *Samil Wolgan*.

Besides, *Samil Wolgan* enriched its columns with articles "On the Internal and International Situation" and "The War Exploits of the Revolutionary Army and the Assistance of the People to the Revolutionary Army."

Hwajonmin is characterized by dealing with the urgent problems of the people at home.

Many of its articles were devoted to setting forth before the people urgent fighting slogans in each particular period, such as "Appeal to the Boys Groaning under the Rule of Japanese Gangsters!" "Japan Preparing for World War," and "Oppose the Forest Conservancy District System!"

The leading articles appearing in *Hwajonmin* were reprints of Comrade Kim Il Sung's articles carried by *Sogwang*, *Samil Wolgan*, and other publications.

Jongsori, an army weekly, dealt chiefly with the life within the army units.

Most of its columns were devoted to the articles written by our guerilla fighters and their correspondents on self-criticism of their shortcoming in standing duty or political study as well as on their good example in these matters. The weekly also carried explanatory articles: "What Is Socialism?" and "What Is Capitalism?"

Comrade Kim Il Sung personally examined the

contents of all these publications and gave detailed guidance even in forms of compilation.

He always emphasized that the publications should retain partisanship, class spirit, popular spirit and militancy and taught us that in writing for the masses of the people an article should not necessarily be wordy, but should be easy to understand and written in such a way as to impress and encourage them.

Once there appeared two articles in *Jongsori* under the captions: "Why I Joined the Guerilla Army?" "Never Shall I Get Flurried Again in Any Battle." They were written by members who had barely learned the Korean language, hence they were not without shortcomings both in content and composition.

Comrade Kim Il Sung had read through the articles in manuscript and told their authors with great satisfaction:

"What impressed me strongly in your articles was the frankness with which you wrote them. There are some misspelled words and ambiguous passages, but such shortcoming can be remedied with the progress of your learning. An article should be written with frankness in easy style familiar to the masses. But this frank feeling cannot be conjured up or produced artificially. You should always write with frank feelings."

He had personally checked and improved the articles before sending them for publication in the paper.

Once a comrade in the secretariat wrote an

article for *Sogwang* under the heading: "The Sound of a Bell in China Proper." But in the article he failed in some respects to analyze problems with an independent view as a Korean Communist.

Comrade Kim Il Sung, personally examined the article and changed the heading to read "Struggle of the Paluchun Army, an Army of the Sons and Daughters of the Chinese People." Then to complement the original content of the article which dealt only with the northward expedition of the Paluchun Army, he added some passages expounding the aim of the Korean and Chinese peoples' revolutions and our tasks, and made it an article of strong appeal, rousing our people further to the revolution.

Having improved the manuscript in this manner Comrade Kim Il Sung returned it to the author and said:

"We should reconcile our works to realities. We should analyze every problem from the standpoint of the Korean Communists. The heading you gave your article and some points of the content might lead to weakening the readers' spirit of independence. I think it is better to change the heading to 'Struggle of the Paluchun Army, an Army of the Sons and Daughters of the Chinese People' in order to make its content more easy to understand. What about this?"

Thanks to Comrade Kim Il Sung's profound and correct guidance, our revolutionary publications were always able to do their part as an incisive revolutionary weapon equipped with high

partisanship, class spirit, popular spirit as well as militancy.

What is still fresh in my memory is the fact that many of articles carried in our publications were devoted to putting up timely and militant slogans before the people.

Right after the outbreak of the Sino-Japanese war, many militant writings were printed in *Sogwang* and *Samil Wolgan* in succession under the headings such as "Come Out Against Conscription and Draft!" "Oppose Forced Delivery, Fight for a Two-to-Eight System of Tenancy!" "Oppose the Oriental Development Company Which Exploits the Korean Peasants!" etc. And *Hwajonmin* published many articles encouraging the masses to struggle. "Oppose the Forced Cultivation of Flax!" was one of them.

Comrade Kim Il Sung wrote many articles even when we were in difficult conditions or our units were on the march. He also set a fine example to us in writing.

In Matangkou Comrade Kim Il Sung worked hard to write and edit, denying himself of sleep and rest. Although in this camp he devoted much of his time to training us, he found time for writing articles for *Sogwang, Samil Wolgan* and *Jongsori* and editing them; he had to sit up late into the night when all were asleep or wake up before daybreak.

Not only did he write many articles. He also made a persistent effort to train a number of good penmen from among the guerilla fighters.

He usually gave definite themes and the concrete orientation for writing to the comrades in the secretariat and the other political workers, and, when they failed to do the task, helped them with patience until they completed it.

Thus, in the Matangkou secret camp many comrades became able to write for *Samil Wolgan* or *Sogwang* articles on the anti-Japanese struggle in our country, for example, "The Lesson of the Kwangju Students' Incident," "The Cause of Failure of the Independence Army," etc.

Comrade Kim Il Sung also gave planned guidance to the rank and file in writing articles.

At the time each company had an agitator who was concurrently in charge of correspondence. Comrade Kim Il Sung would say at the meetings of these agitators to this effect:

"You should not think writing is difficult. You had better help your company members write about things familiar to them, not about a matter they know little or nothing about. They should above all write about their everyday life in their companies. Everybody can write if he wants to write about his comrades who are exemplary in standing duty, in handling arms or in studies. Give them subjects familiar to them and continue to help them, and they will become good writers."

After his instruction *Jongsori* was filled with articles written by the correspondents and ordinary members of companies.

Besides, newsflashes in those days were issued

in a prompt and militant way. Early one morning, for instance, a comrade of the Guards Company made an outcry about his "lost" gun when another comrade had carried off by mistake. The fact was immediately satirized by a newsflash under the heading " 'Lost Weapon' Outcry Shatters Morning Silence!" which remains ever fresh in my memory.

The newsflashes published promptly in this manner served as a means of educating us.

To the printing Comrade Kim Il Sung paid no less attention than to the writing and editing.

He always directed primary concern to ensuring the working condition of those engaged in printing.

The printing house in the Matangkou secret camp was provided with two good mimeographs, stencils, papers, and printing ink and other necessary instruments and materials. It could print not only periodicals but many kinds of pamphlets, leaflets and slogans.

This printing house in the thick forest was built under the great concern of Comrade Kim Il Sung.

As for the mimeographs, one of them was bought from Tokyo, Japan.

Comrade Kim Il Sung assigned the task of procuring a mimeograph to Comrade Pak Dal. It was possible to procure it in the neighbourhood, but he had some one in Japan to buy a mimeograph in Tokyo so as to evade the attention of the enemy in the Hyesan district.

The mimeograph brought from Tokyo, the heart

of the enemy's country, served as an incisive weapon of revolution to expose and denounce the aggressive nature and crimes of the enemy.

That is why he always emphasized that in whatever adversity we should protect our mimeographs and other printing equipment and materials even at the risk of life and in this regard he himself set examples on more than one occasion.

It happened in August 1940 in Spangrintze, Antu county.

Comrade Kim Il Sung was then staying there accompanied by the workers of the printing house and the Guards Company. One day, he instructed the workers to pack up in order to move to another billeting area. Then he walked up first to the entrance to a road.

There Comrade Kim Il Sung found out the enemy stealthily closing in from all sides on the secret camp.

The thick morning fog prevented our sentries from spotting the enemy just before their eyes.

It was a critical moment.

Leaping quickly behind a hazel tree he shot the enemy and rushed back to where the workers of the printing house were.

The packing was still going on at the printing house. He ordered the workers: "Move northward, leaving not a single leaflet behind." And, critical as the moment was, he set out with one of the mimeographs on his shoulder shooting at the approaching enemy soldiers with his Mauser as he went. Presently the alarmed comrades of the

Guards Company rushed to the scene and took over the mimeograph from him almost by force and one of them shouldered it. Protecting Comrade Kim Il Sung and other comrades who were carrying the property of the printing house they broke through the enemy's encirclement.

This event made us deeply realize how Comrade Kim Il Sung cherished our revolutionary publications and the printing house.

Not a sheet of stencil, not a sheet of paper, not a tin of printing ink used in the printing house was obtained without the shedding of the blood of our comrades-in-arms who brought them through enemy's strict cordon. There were occasions when the revolutionary comrades were injured or lost their lives for a sheet of stencil or a tin of the printing ink.

That was why he used to say to Comrade Kim Yong Guk and other comrades of the printing house:

"Every sheet of paper and every gram of ink are permeated with the blood of our revolutionary comrades. They were got by our comrades at the risk of their lives. You comrades must, therefore, strive hard to save even a single sheet of paper and use it more effectively...."

In those days nothing was more difficult than to obtain stencil paper and printing ink.

In order to prevent even a sheet of stencil or a tin of ink from reaching us guerillas, the Japanese imperialists strictly prohibited their public

sale; only public organs whose mimeographs were registered were allowed to buy them.

This obliged us to get help of children of those affiliated with the Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland—the members of the Children's Corps—who could buy some sheets of stencil paper at this or that shop, pleading: "We are asked by our teacher...." But in case their trick was found out, the children were subjected to the enemy's cruel torture.

Comrade Kim Il Sung instructed to obtain printing materials also through those employed in the enemy organs.

In order to cope with such difficult situation, Comrade Kim Il Sung also assigned the printing workers with the task of manufacturing ink or roller on their own.

To carry out the task the comrades of the printing house racked their brains at their spare time to devise a method of manufacturing ink. It was by no means an easy job. But, after repeated failures, they succeeded in producing it.

They set a tin cowl over the burning pine branches to collect soot and, using the soot mixed with alum and petroleum, produced good printing ink.

Then they managed to reproduce damaged rollers by means of boiling them in glue and casting them in a definite mold.

Whenever there was an assault upon a city, some of the guerillas were especially assigned to the task of obtaining printing materials.

It was also very difficult for us to obtain reg-

ularly enemy's newspapers which provided important materials for our publications.

Comrade Kim Il Sung, while getting them through local organizations, assigned this task to Comrade Kim Dong Gyu.

Comrade Kim Dong Gyu collected enemy's newspapers and data through his underground activities in the localities, Comrade Jong Dong Chol, member of the Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland, was sent to Singalpa where he procured newspaper regularly (but they were back numbers, about a month old) for the guerilla units.

Comrade Kim Il Sung had all these papers made into scrap-books classified into different sections, and, based on these materials, he wrote incisive, militant article exposing and denouncing the enemy. He also saw that guerillas, too, utilized the books for reference in their writing.

In this way the guerilla units continued to put out revolutionary publications despite difficult conditions.

Besides the periodicals issued once a week or once or twice a month in fairly large numbers, there were printed many pamphlets, propaganda material and leaflets.

To cite only those books whose subjects are still vivid in my memory: "The Tasks of the Korean Communists," "The Ten-point Programme of the Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland," "Problems of Leninism," "The Manifesto of the Communist Party," "Anthology of Revolutionary Songs (Volumes I, II, III)," "Anti-Fascist Popu-

lar Front," "Left Adventurism and Right Opportunism," and "Reader of the Peasants."

Comrade Kim Il Sung also directed profound attention to the distribution of our publications.

The newspapers, magazines and booklets were not only circulated within our units, but spread all over Western Gando through the organizations of the Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland in Changpai area and the extensive areas of the homeland through the organizations of the National Liberation Union. They also enjoyed a wide circulation even among the neighbouring guerilla units and the units of the Independence Army and the National Salvation Army in southern Manchuria.

Like in our units, these publications distributed through the organizations were generally popular with their readers, who vied with one another in reading them.

People who got a copy of our newspapers, magazines or booklets did everything to drink in their contents like a thirsty man drinks water. They urged each other to read it quickly, circulating it until its letters became dim, and when letters became illegible they rewrote them in Chinese ink.

Thus each copy of our publications which were imbued with his profound solicitude and passion grasped the hearts of Party members and the masses, yielding a great material power.

Especially in the units the publications were our mental food and a weapon for our ideological remoulding.

I still remember clearly an anecdote of a recruit who had corrected his mistake through the newspaper reading and become a model fighter.

The recruit dozed over his sentry duty. But he was not convinced of his mistake even when the political instructor of the company talked to him about it.

So, the political instructor reasoned with him seriously and then asked a correspondent to help him write his sentiments for *Jongsori*. In the course of writing an article which he captioned: "Why I Dozed on Sentry?" the recruit came to realize his mistake. He wrote it from the standpoint of self-criticism admitting that his dozing on duty was much akin to "handing over his unit to the Japanese imperialists." This article carried by *Jongsori* not only came to him as a great impact but also greatly stimulated many other guerillas. After that he became a model in all work and discharged his sentry duty with great devotion.

One day, when a weak comrade was told that his turn of standing on sentry had come round, the recruit volunteered to take this man's place so that he might take a rest. The correspondent of the company, noting this fact, wrote an article in praise of the recruit's exemplary deed and published it in *Jongsori*.

The recruit took great pride in this. He gradually made himself a fine fighter sparing no efforts for the sake of his comrades and his company.

In this way, each copy of *Sogwang* or *Jongsori* educated us ideologically and politically, and help-

ed one correct one's shortcomings following the other's fine examples.

It was particularly among the masses of the people that *Sogwang*, *Samil Wolgan* and the booklets played a great role. For the people who had been at a loss which way to go, they heralded the dawn of the fatherland and served as the sound of a bell calling them to struggle.

These publications thus provided the orientation and methods of struggle and the confidence in victory to the guerilla fighters as well as to the revolutionary masses affiliated with the Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland (or the Korean National Liberation Union in the homeland).

They also helped some people, who had been suffering from the deeply rooted aftereffects of factionalism and opportunist influence, to take a correct path firmly, and laid a firm ideological basis for the growth of new and powerful core detachments of the Communists.

The publications armed large numbers of Communists with new, scientific strategy and tactics and rallied them on the single revolutionary line and under the unified system of organization. At that time they had no clear grasp of the correct ways for carrying out the revolution of our country, and had been acting separated from each other.

The role of our revolutionary publications was not limited to this.

It was through the newspapers and magazines that the correct strategical and tactical line of

Comrade Kim Il Sung and his lofty patriotic ideas could open the tightly sealed hearts of stubborn nationalists and religious men and help them out of the wrong course.

It has been widely known that an old man who was the head of Chondogyo believers in many counties in Western Gando underwent an ideological change in the course of reading the "Ten-point Programme of the Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland" and our revolutionary publications and had all the believers under his influence join the Association and render active support to our guerilla units.

The fact that a unit of the Independence Army in southern Manchuria joined our guerilla units, is another example of the influence of our revolutionary publications along with of other factors.

Formerly there was Pak Dong Cho who was in the leading post of the Independence Army in southern Manchuria. He was a die-hard nationalist hostile to us, alleging that "the Communist Party is a wicked horde that does not work to restore the fatherland but merely to communize all." (He said this because he was affected by the enemy's false propaganda about the 'joint ownership of property and wives'.)

He did realize his wrong idea after he studied the revolutionary publications including Comrade Kim Il Sung's treatise on the tasks of the Korean Communists and the "Ten-point Programme of the Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland."

And coming to the conclusion that "General

Kim Il Sung is really a national hero who indicates and follows the correct line of restoring Korea and liberating the people," he immediately joined our guerilla units together with his unit.

As seen above, the revolutionary publications put out by Comrade Kim Il Sung in the period of the anti-Japanese armed struggle opened a broad road for the development of our revolution.

They made for the organizational and ideological preparations for founding a Party by uniting and training the Communists, gave a clear direction and a weapon of struggle to the broad masses of workers and peasants and laid a firm foundation for the anti-Japanese united front to unite all anti-Japanese persons from whatever section of life.

Today in our country tens of, hundreds of kinds of periodicals and various kinds of books are published in hundreds of thousands or millions of copies which serve as an incisive ideological weapon of the Party and a powerful means of educating our Party members and the working people in communist ideas.

This has been made possible because Comrade Kim Il Sung not only personally launched and developed the Party organ *Jongro* (the predecessor of the present *Rodong Shinmun*) immediately after liberation, but also showed profound solicitude in every respect to train the men of the press, ensure their working conditions and firmly build up the material and technical foundations for the publishing and printing work, and he gave con-

crete guidance to the publishing work, personally indicating the orientation of the compilation of our publications.

Thanks to such leadership and solicitude of Comrade Kim Il Sung, today our publications always grasp the hearts of millions of readers as militant publications with strong partisanship, class spirit and popular spirit, like the revolutionary publications in the days of the anti-Japanese armed struggle, and are read regularly by them with admiration.

That is why whenever I read *Rodong Shinmun* and other publications of ours I do feel boundless joy and pride.

A BOWL OF PARCHED-RICE POWDER

BAEK HAK RIM

Whenever I recall the arduous march in the winter of 1938, many unforgettable memories come back to me. Here I am going to relate a story which still to this day touches my heart.

Early in the December of that year, our unit of the People's Revolutionary Army under the personal command of Comrade Kim Il Sung left Mongkiang for the Changpai area to operate in the borderland and within the homeland.

The enemy detected the course of our unit's movements, and sent out thousands of troops to chase us.

Indeed, our march was beset with untold difficulties.

It was snowing thick and fast. We had to force our way through the waist-deep snow across the thick forests over a distance of several thousand *ri*. Everyday we had to engage the enemy who came after us obstinately.

Despite the repeated ignominious defeats, the enemy came stubbornly in chase of us.

The main object of the enemy's "punitive operation" was to "wipe out" the Headquarters of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army. So they ran riot without paying heed to their sacrifices.

We kept marching under these circumstances for nearly a month, and our provisions were running out. So our march became still more arduous.

Conditions were hard—the enemy was close on our heels, the path was rough and, on top of it, the provisions ran out. It was therefore difficult for all the unit to march in the same direction.

In the vicinity of Chitaokou, Changpai county, Comrade Commander divided the unit, so that the guerillas took three different courses.

The Guards Company and the machine-gun squad under the personal leadership of Comrade Commander headed for Chiatsaishui in Chitaokou, Changpai county, the 7th Regiment was to operate in the Heihsiatzukou area, the 8th Regiment and the Independent Battalion in the Tungkiang area of Fusung county.

Taking into account the difficulties of the march, Comrade Commander sent the members of the sewing group and the aged and the weak to the secret camp at Chingfeng, Changpai county.

As a result of these tactical measures taken by him, the enemy forces were dispersed. Having lost track of the main force and the Headquarters of our unit, the enemy was in a fog as to which way

to go. He only came in search of us at random. But he did not give up his pursuit. The food situation of our unit went from bad to worse. For several days we had stayed hunger with corn-bran and dried vegetable leaves. Weak from hunger, the men sank down on the ground, they had marched without eating for many days. But they stuffed snow into their mouths and then scrambled to their feet to walk on again.

Such an indomitable spirit of our guerillas sprang from their political and ideological unity strengthened under the guidance of Comrade Commander. No amount of difficulties could ever bring us into submission. Explaining the aim of our march, Comrade Commander said that we would surely win victory in the forthcoming spring offensive in the border area after overcoming all the difficulties. His words instilled in us indomitable fighting spirit and courage.

Fighting fierce battles in succession with the ground "punitive force" and air corps of the enemy, we continued our march towards the border.

To tide over the food crisis, Comrade Commander ordered Guards Company Commander Oh Baek Ryong to go and procure provisions.

With several men, Comrade Oh Baek Ryong made an assault on a lumber station in Chitaokou owned by Japanese imperialists who sweated the workers, and returned with some ten head of horses as booty.

We had no time to roast the horseflesh, so we

ate it raw while marching on through the snow. Needless to say, we had no salt, it had run out.

In four or five days, even the horseflesh was out.

At the time Comrades Kim Bong Sok and Ji Bong Son were working with me as orderlies at the Headquarters. Comrade Kim Bong Sok, senior orderly, fumbled in our knapsacks and got together the parched-rice powder kept for emergency ration. There was roughly a bowlful of it, in all.

To us orderlies it was tormenting above all that we could not serve Comrade Commander with meals; needless to say, we ourselves were going hungry.

It was one morning on the march. When we had a short rest, we offered the parched-rice powder we got from our knapsacks to Comrade Commander.

He glanced round at us without a word, and then called Comrade Ji Bong Son, the youngest of us orderlies, close to him and gave him the parched-rice powder. With the powder in his hand, Comrade Bong Son was quite perplexed and stood where he was not knowing what to do. Tears welled in his eyes. Patting the young orderly on the head, Comrade Commander urged him to take it without worrying about him, and left the place.

Comrade Bong Son did not eat the parched-rice powder but gave it to me. At last, the bowlful of rice powder was put in my knapsack again.

The march continued. We were forcing our way forward, thousands of enemy troops following

close on our heels, when there came the report that hundreds of enemies appeared in front of us. The situation was really critical. Comrade Commander stopped and, after surveying the lay of the land around through his field glass, gave orders that a detachment of several men should march onward and the main unit sheer off, erasing the footprints. And after some distance, the detachment, too, bore away from its course just as the main unit had done and joined the latter. Thus, we got out of the critical situation again.

After the march all day long, we made camp toward evening. That day, too, we were out of provisions and so melted the snow over a fire and drank it. After discussion we orderlies were agreed to offer the parched-rice powder to Comrade Commander once again and make him take it by all means.

We divided the bowlful of parched-rice powder into halves and produced one of them before Comrade Commander, keeping the other half for his next meal.

Comrade Commander looked at us in silence. His countenance, too, suggested hunger, but his eyes were as soft and radiant as usual.

He seemed to guess that we were offering exclusively to him the last remainder of the parched-rice powder.

"How many meals have you skipped?" he asked.

"Comrade Commander!" We answered in unison. "We have had our portions already. Only you haven't had yet."

"Well, you mean I should eat it alone?... And is there no more of it left?" asked he again with a smile on his face.

"No more left," answered we.

"Now, bring and let me see your knapsacks," he said.

He looked into our knapsacks one by one. First he examined Comrade Kim Bong Sok's and Ji Bong Son's but found no parched-rice powder in them. Now it was my turn. My heart thumped. I could not but produce the rest of the parched-rice powder kept deep in my knapsack.

"You told a lie!" Comrade Commander burst out laughing, looking at me.

Comrade Commander spread a sheet of newspaper and poured out the parched-rice powder on it. Then he invited us to sit around it. We hesitated, only exchanging looks in embarrassment.

If this parched-rice powder was all eaten up by us orderlies, nothing would be left for his next meal. We were really at a loss what to do.

Seeing that we were hesitant, Comrade Commander took us by the hand and sat us down. There was no help for it but to sit around the parched-rice powder no more than a bowlful.

"Suppose this is one *mal* of parched-rice powder and you will feel satiated," said he. "Come along. Take it." With this, he made a paper spoon and began to portion out the parched-rice powder to us.

Without caring about his own share, he served it out all for us. We took some from our shares

and put it back before him. But he returned it to us again.

We could not decline any more, so we received it as he gave it to us. Thus, in the end Comrade Commander had the least share.

Comrade Commander did not add water to his parched-rice powder till after we all did so.

I was so touched that the parched-rice powder dissolved in water did not pass my throat. And I was not the only one: the same thing happened to all of us three.

He had told us to eat the bowlful of parched-rice powder as if eating as much as one *mal*. But we did know well that thousands or tens of thousands of *mal* of food could by no means be equal to the boundless love epitomized in his words.

Of course, happiness or emotion cannot be measured by amount of material wealth. The exploiters' luxurious repast made up of all sorts of dainties could never taste as good as the bowlful of parched-rice powder we had at that time.

It was because the bowlful of parched-rice powder served as precious food of guerillas in the revolution, and it contained valuable nutriments of the revolution with which Comrade Commander reared us into men possessing the spirit of self-sacrificing service for the fatherland and the quality of deep solicitude for the inferiors.

That night, under the direct command of Comrade Commander, we with a hundred times greater courage wiped out the enemy entrenched in a settlement in Shihsantaokou, Changpai county, and

captured a great quantity of provisions, which was sent down to the lower guerilla units.

The enemy ran riot over the thick forests, hills and snow-covered mountain ridges all through the winter in pursuit of our units, but he completely lost track of the Headquarters and the main unit of our army.

The enemy was dog-tired and exhausted.

Thus, thanks to the superb tactical steps of Comrade Kim Il Sung, the enemy's "winter punitive operation" was frustrated, and the demoralized enemy units broke up and were scattered to many places.

Our army units active in different areas were gathered together again and went over to a spring offensive, delivering a crushing blow to the enemy.

Under the leadership of the ever-victorious Commander, we, bearing deep in our minds the unforgettable memory of "the bowlful of parched-rice powder," dealt a heavy blow to the enemy in the Musan area of the homeland and gave defeats and death to the enemy in the border area in the spring offensive that year.

IN MEMORY OF COMRADE KIM JONG SUK

KIM MYONG HWA

Whenever I think of the happy life I am enjoying today in this glorious era of Chollima in which wonders are wrought with each passing day, the faces of many comrades who were my partners through thick and thin during the anti-Japanese guerilla struggle, float before my eyes calling up memories of those days.

Among those comrades, especially I have the never-to-be-forgotten memory of Comrade Kim Jong Suk.

I first met her in the guerilla base in Wangyukou, Yenchi county, where I led a guerilla life.

Living with her from that time on, I became well acquainted with her past life as well as her noble character.

Born into the family of a farm hand and bereaved of her parents in her childhood, she grew up in adverse circumstances, suffering from hunger and cold.

Though a mere slip of a girl, she withstood all the hardships with set teeth.

Life taught her to hate the social system where injustice prevailed. She came to see unerringly who her class enemy was.

After she joined the Children's Corps which exercised revolutionary influence upon her through organizational life, she became more awakened.

Now she could go many miles all alone at night without fear to carry out liaison missions for the revolutionary organization or would slip into the compounds of the Manchurian Army barracks to put up bills.

When the enemies became still wilder in perpetrating barbarities and their "punitive force" burnt down her house, she came to the guerilla base in Wangyukou with her younger brother.

The guerilla fighters and people in the base loved the two orphans of an early age as their real children and looked after them with all sincerity.

One day in September 1933, the base had a surprise attack by a "punitive force."

The atrocious enemies set every house on fire and mercilessly shot down innocent children and aged people climbing up the mountainside for refuge. Comrade Kim Jong Suk lost her one and only brother that day, to add to her misfortune.

She wept, hugging the body of her brother who had breathed his last clutching in his little hands earth scratched up in his pain. She cursed the enemies with irreconcilable hatred, and vowed vengeance. She told herself again and again that she

would fight and avenge with her very life her brother on the enemies.

As a member of the Young Communist League, Comrade Kim Jong Suk guided the work of the Children's Corps in Peitung of Wangyukou. There was a shortage of food and clothes, and the village was attacked by the "punitive force" several times a day. But even in these difficult circumstances she looked after the children with utmost care, bringing them up to be reliable fighters. On the other hand, she was always mindful of her revolutionary duty to encourage, rally and mobilize the people in the base, as well as carry on the work of assisting the guerilla units.

She was modest, polite and well-behaved in any circumstances.

This endeared her to everyone in the base from the children up to the aged, who called her "the leader of our branch" or "our Jong Suk."

The fine womanly character of Comrade Kim Jong Suk was more fully displayed in her guerilla life later, serving as a model for the other women guerillas.

Comrade Jong Suk joined the guerilla army in 1935 in Chechangtzu, where she worked with me as a cook.

Working with Comrade Kim Jong Suk I more than once admired her for her warm love of revolutionary comrades.

Our life in Chechangtzu at that time was indescribably hard. Things were tough for us cooks, too, who were responsible for ensuring meals for the guerillas.

Although we were extremely exhausted after missing several meals, we had to climb up the mountain every day and peel the endoderms off pine trees to prepare meals for the fighters with. But when the endoderms of pine trees on the flat summit were all peeled, we had to go for them along steep ridges to which one could be hardly accessible. Totally exhausted, we would often drop down at the foot of a pine tree with our arms round its trunk and fall fast asleep, sickle in hand.

One day we obtained half a bowl of flour quite by chance. Comrade Jong Suk and I were agreed to prepare a special meal with it for the comrades-in-arms.

We pounded the pine endoderm until it was like cotton and mixed it with the flour, which we boiled and made into jelly-like cakes. Then we turned knapsacks inside out to get some beans; we baked and ground these beans into powder with which we coated the cakes.

Now that the "special meal" was ready, we waited for supper time.

When mealtime came, we served the comrades with the cakes. They were delighted; they asked where such nice cakes came from.

They ate them with relish, saying that the cakes tasted far better than honeyed glutinous-rice cakes.

Leaning against the kitchen door, Comrade Jong Suk watched the comrades at the table. There was happy smile on her face.

When the meal was nearly over, Comrade Jong

Suk went into the kitchen in a hurry and came out with some more cakes and divided them among the comrades.

Then guerillas would not accept but urged us to eat them. Comrade Jong Suk pressed the cakes on them, though, saying: "We have had enough. These are extras."

Then Comrade Jong Suk and I brought all the remainder of the cakes and served them out among the guerillas who accepted them, believing that we had had our meal.

When we went to bed that night, I asked her if she was not hungry.

She answered quietly:

"Looking at the pleased faces of the comrades, I clean forgot that I was hungry. Why, do you think one feels satiated only when one eats? If I can make our comrades so happy, I think I can go without meals... Mother Myong Hwa, I feel very happy tonight!"

Her lofty spirit of finding genuine happiness and joy in the service of other comrades, moved me deeply. I pressed her to my breast.

She had so warm a love for her comrades that she dedicated her all them and would unhesitatingly risk any danger for the sake of them.

Yet, her love for her comrades was by no means without principle.

She knew how to educate other comrades by setting examples herself. Such character earned her the deep respect, love and solicitude of her comrades-in-arms.

Here is another story. Once our detachment, while marching through a forest to Mt. Naitou, encountered the enemy quite unexpectedly.

We barely managed to get out of the critical position.

When we came to the appointed assembly point leaving the enemy some distance behind, we found that one of the recruits who had come over to us from the mountain rebels had lost his revolver in the confusion of the critical situation.

Comrade Jong Suk was the first to notice it. She asked the recruit what became of his revolver.

Only then did the recruit see the broken strap of his revolver dangling from the holster. Dumbstricken, he did not know what to do.

Comrade Jong Suk suggested to him that they should go back together in search of the weapon.

At this, the man shrank back mumbling how he could go back when the enemy was coming in pursuit.

"Do you not know what this weapon had cost us?" Comrade Jong Suk said in a warm but stern voice. "Have you already forgotten that the revolver cost the blood and lives of our comrades! You must know that if it falls into the hands of the enemy, he will train it again upon us."

The man stood mute and silent, his head hanging.

Comrade Jong Suk, leading him by the hand, rushed down the slope back in the direction from which still came the sound of intermittent firing.

Before long they came back safe with the revolv-

er which had torn off its strap when it got caught on a tree branch.

All comrades present were moved by her admirable conduct.

The recruit turned red out of the prick of conscience, but he, instead of reflecting on his blunder deeply, pleaded with her not to report the fact to the superiors.

Comrade Jong Suk, walking alongside the man all the way, talked earnestly, telling him he should not try to hide his blunder but should be frank about it and willingly accept the other comrades' criticism. She said he would not repeat similar blunders only when he accepted criticism with an open mind.

The recruit was so moved he wept with remorse and voluntarily criticized himself before the comrades, pledging to become a good guerilla.

In this way Comrade Kim Jong Suk not only distinguished herself by her revolutionary comradeship in the course of the arduous struggle but faithfully discharged her revolutionary duties and devoted her all to the revolution.

In early 1937 Comrade Kim Jong Suk was dispatched to the Changpai area as a political worker upon instructions from Commander Kim Il Sung.

In spite of the enemy's strict watch, she faithfully carried out the revolutionary task of organizing a Women's Association and rallying the broad masses of the people around the Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland.

"Don't worry. Though I may be killed, the or-

ganization will live on. I send you two *yuan*, all my earthly possessions. Please add it to the fund of the organization...."

These were the words Comrade Kim Jong Suk conveyed to the organization when she was put to cruel torture and was hovering between life and death after she had been arrested by the enemy while teaching revolutionary songs to the members of the Women's Association during her activity in the Changpai area in the summer of 1937.

When the enemy found her guerilla uniform and a bundle of papers to be sent to the guerilla unit in the house where she was staying, he took her to the Yaofangtze village, locked her up in the house of a peasant there, and put her to severe torture, threatening to kill her if she did not reveal the secrets of the guerilla unit.

The fate of the revolutionary organization depended on the fortitude of Comrade Kim Jong Suk as a revolutionary.

She withstood all the tortures of the enemy and kept the secrets of the organization, living up to the firm belief of the organization in her. (Later she was rescued by revolutionary organization through secret operations.)

Comrade Kim Jong Suk always creditably fulfilled her revolutionary duties with devotion, whatever difficult and arduous ones, and carried through what she wanted to the end.

This happened one day when she worked in a guerilla base area as a cook.

She was putting mushrooms into the boiling-pot

of gruel, when the base was assaulted by the enemy's "punitive force."

The situation was crucial. But Comrade Kim Jong Suk who was aware that the fighters would have no meal if the gruel was abandoned, made up her mind to carry the gruel pot with her at any cost.

Hurriedly, she made a head-pad with twigs cut from trees and, carrying the hot pot on her head, climbed the hill after her comrades-in-arms, braving the rain of bullets.

When she reached the hill top, more than half of the skin on her head was burnt and swollen. But, regardless of the burn, she at once served the gruel to the fighters.

Her fidelity to the revolutionary duty and her high sense of responsibility stirred the fighters deeply. Moved to tears by her warm sincerity expressed in preserving the herb gruel, the fighters hardened their determination to wipe out the enemies.

There are many more such moving stories left behind by Comrade Kim Jong Suk on the path of revolution.

During the well-known arduous march of over 100 days in the winter of 1938, too, she carried the cooking-pot on her back to boil water and prepare meals for the fighters between hard battles. In the autumn of 1939, in the woods near the Olgi river, she, together with the members of a sewing group, worked day and night for over a month to make hundreds of winter uniforms for the guerillas ahead of the set time. All this is proof of her high sense of re-

sponsibility and strong will in fulfilling her revolutionary duties.

Special mention must be made of the fact that Comrade Kim Jong Suk was always loyal to the Headquarters of the revolution, defended it at the risk of her life, and went through even fire and water to carry out its orders.

During more than 15 long years, not even for a minute did she forget the revolution and the Leader.

She was firmly convinced of the final victory of the Korean revolution as long as it was led by Marshal Kim Il Sung. So she overcame all hardships unwaveringly with set teeth and always held fast to revolutionary principles.

In the spring of 1936, in a forest near Wankiang, Fusung county, Comrade Kim Jong Suk and I for the first time met Marshal Kim Il Sung whom we had always held in reverence. As would have been the case with others, Comrade Kim Jong Suk was very glad to meet him; I still remember it. On that day we were transferred to the Sixth Division of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army which was under the direct command of Marshal Kim Il Sung.

Thinking of the honour of being his fighters, our hearts swelled with joy. We took a firm oath to be boundlessly faithful to our duties on the path indicated by him.

After that, under the personal leadership of Marshal Kim Il Sung, Comrade Kim Jong Suk grew up as a fighter faithful to him.

At any time and at any place she lived and

fought in strict accordance with the revolutionary ideas and intentions of Marshal Kim Il Sung, and did not step aside an inch from this stand in whatever adverse situation.

One day in the winter of 1938 when our unit was on the arduous march of over 100 days, Marshal Kim Il Sung sent the aged and sick persons to the Chongbong secret camping ground in Changpai county together with Comrade Kim Jong Suk and other women guerillas who were to look after those people. From the spring of that year, upon instructions from Marshal Kim Il Sung, some guerilla fighters were engaged in supply work there.

During her stay in the camping ground, there arose a grave situation owing to some unsound elements who had joined the guerilla unit by sheer chance and had since been disaffected toward the Headquarters.

Entrenched in the safe place when the main force of the guerilla unit was waging a hard battle to break through the enemy's encirclements, those villains were overtly and covertly brewing a plot to subvert the Headquarters of our revolution. They persecuted on false charges Comrade Kim Jong Suk and other sound fighters who were defending the revolutionary line of Marshal Kim Il Sung and the Headquarters.

At that time, too, Comrade Kim Jong Suk thought and acted strictly in accordance with the revolutionary ideas and intentions of Marshal Kim Il Sung, and fought resolutely against the unsound elements holding fast to her stand.

Thanks to the principled struggle of Comrade Kim Jong Suk, the true colors of those villains were disclosed to the full later and at last a stern punishment was meted out to them.

Comrade Kim Jong Suk not only defended the Headquarters of the revolution ideologically, but protected it at the risk of her life.

As a cook at the Headquarters, she carried out her duties faithfully under whatever difficult circumstances, while doing her utmost for the personal safety of Marshal Kim Il Sung.

Here is another of many stories.

In the autumn of 1939, Marshal Kim Il Sung, leading the Guards Company directly under the Headquarters, was on his way back from a sally into the vicinity of Hanyangkou in Antu county. Comrade Kim Jong Suk was then accompanying the company as a cook.

The company came to the Tasaho river in Antu county. At the back was a hill and in front was the Tasaho river. The company stopped at the riverside to have a short rest, and then was about to cross the river, when there was a sudden burst of shots and the next instant a hail of bullets peppered the riverside.

Having learned that Marshal Kim Il Sung was with the company, the enemy had come in pursuit and overtook the company there. The enemy was machine-gunning pell-mell from the hilltop.

The situation was very critical. If the company crossed the river under the circumstances, it would

suffer a great loss from the enemy's concentrated fire.

The company would not have got out of the dangerous situation, had it not been the bold and agile commanding by Marshal Kim Il Sung.

The moment the enemy began firing, Marshal Kim Il Sung with the revolver in his hand issued orders to charge the hill. With the reverberating bugle-call announcing the charge, the fighters dashed up the hill like so many angry tigers, shouting *manse*.

The situation was soon reversed. The charge of our company terrified and put the enemy on the defensive.

But the vicious enemy would not retreat from the hill.

When the battle was at its height, Marshal Kim Il Sung took up his position on a rock halfway up the hill and directed the fighting.

Comrade Kim Jong Suk was then guarding the Marshal. She had been looking around with vigilance to safeguard him, when she spotted several enemy soldiers crawling in their direction in the reed field dotted here and there with shrubs holding their rifles at the ready.

It was a crucial moment, indeed. She instantly screened the Commander with her body, and then shot the leading enemy soldier who was training his rifle on them.

But before she knew what was happening, the Commander shot the second enemy soldier over her shoulder.

Comrade Jong Suk did away with the third one. And then in rapid succession they fired their revolvers killing the rest of the approaching enemy soldiers on the spot.

This is only one example.

There were many such dangerous instances in the course of the long arduous struggle.

Whenever danger rose, the fighters who were faithful to the Leader protected him with their bodies and guarded him at the risk of their lives, as Comrade Kim Jong Suk did.

Even after she returned to the fatherland following the liberation, Comrade Kim Jong Suk who had been tempered steel-like in the ordeals of the anti-Japanese armed struggle, devoted all her energies and wisdom to the Party and the revolution to the last moment of her life.

The life of Comrade Kim Jong Suk inspires the entire people boundlessly in the fulfilment of our revolutionary duties, serving as a model of infinite fidelity to the Party, the Leader and the revolution, ardent love for the fatherland and the people, the spirit of fighting against the class enemy uncompromisingly and love for the revolutionary comrades.

STRENGTH OF UNITY

PAK DU GYONG

"There was nothing impossible for us once we chose to do it." Epitomized in this is the pride with which we are today making the Chollima advance for socialism-communism.

It is with this enthusiasm and sense of honour that we all look up to our respected and beloved Leader Comrade Kim Il Sung, grateful for his wise leadership and deep solicitude and full of a sense of honour and pride in the fact that we are his Red fighters ready to follow the path indicated by him through thick and thin.

Needless to say, the sense of honour and pride is nothing new to us. The people who have fought under his wise leadership since the days of the anti-Japanese armed struggle have entertained that sense of pride for a long time now.

It was at Hsiaowangching that I met Comrade Kim Il Sung for the first time.

Hsiaowangching became the centre of the revolu-

tionary movement in eastern Manchuria after Comrade Kim Il Sung, having organized a guerilla army in Antu county, had moved there.

Formerly, Hsiaowangching was one of the many villages inhabited by Koreans who were subjected to brutal suppression and massacre under the occupation of the enemy. It was, therefore, the most urgent question at the time for us to put an end to the armed suppression of the enemy. To do so we had to take up arms.

But we had no weapon at all. Axes, sickles and clubs were all we had.

With these it was impossible for us to fight the Japanese imperialist aggressors armed with modern weapons. Yet, we could not sit and suffer death.

We started collecting weapons from former Independence Army men and hunters in the locality, but could obtain only three guns including a firelock and a hunting-gun. And one of the guns was out of order and unfit for use. So a comrade said jokingly: "We have two guns and a half."

With this as our asset, however, we organized a secret armed unit, named "Special Armed Corps," and launched a struggle to capture weapons from the enemy. Not only the members of the "Special Armed Corps" but also young boys and girls and even old men beyond 60 took part in this struggle. When we secured seven or eight more rifles, though of an old type, we were determined to fight the enemy.

It was just at that time that Comrade Kim Il Sung came to us. He took note of how things

were faring with us and gave us detailed guidance. Here is the gist of what he said:

...Before, you were barehanded and exposed to the enemy's attacks, but now you are possessed of weapons, though not many, and are burning with a desire to fight the enemy. This is something very gratifying.... There can be nothing impossible for us when we hold the revolution dearer than our own lives, value the freedom and independence of the fatherland and the people's welfare higher than our own youth!

I highly appreciate your great enthusiasm for fighting. But you must bear in mind that enthusiasm alone is not enough to crush the enemy and win victory in the revolution.

Our fight with the enemy is not a sort of wrestling bout held on the Dano Festival nor a chess game, in which we are pleased when we win and can try once again when beaten. We are revolutionaries. Once we fight we must win without fail. This requires correct operation plans and proper arrangements. We must think and make calculations as to how many enemies we can dispose of, how to conduct a battle so as to wipe out as many enemies as possible without any loss on our part and thus win decisive victory, what our strong points are and what the weaknesses of the enemy are, whether we have any defects and whether there is any better way of fighting....

Under the direct guidance of Comrade Kim Il Sung, we began by arming ourselves better and concentrated our efforts on building up our base to safeguard the

people from the enemy's attacks at any time. In the meantime, we gradually went into action.

We won repeated victories in the Chiapikou battle and numerous other big and small engagements under his direct command. This inspired the guerilla fighters and the people of the guerilla base with confidence in victory.

Our art of fighting was seasoned and improved further.

Along with this, the people's government was set up and democratic reforms were carried out at the base. This not only kindled a redoubled revolutionary enthusiasm of the people at the base, but exerted great influence upon the people in the enemy-controlled areas. Every day an increasing number of youths came to us from areas under the enemy's rule to join the guerilla army. But our struggle and road to victory were not smooth.

Beginning with the spring of 1933, we had to go through hard trials.

At that time the enemy started a large-scale "punitive operation" in an attempt to dampen our revolutionary spirits and deprive us of our gains.

The enemy concentrated all his force in the "punitive operations" against the guerilla bases in various parts of eastern Manchuria, especially against the Hsiaowangching base.

It was April 17, 1933.

The enemy surged forward from the bank of the Tatou river up to the foot of Mt. Bbyojok in such a frenzied manner that it appeared as if he would swallow up our base at one gulp. But he could not

frighten us. Though we were not strong enough yet, we had the wise leadership of Comrade Kim Il Sung and the solid unity of the revolutionary comrades and the people rallied around him. This thought inspired us with great confidence.

Under the command of Comrade Kim Il Sung, we fought day and night against thousands of enemy troops. At last, on the third day, we repelled the enemy, who suffered a loss of more than 400 casualties in the battle. But the enemy did not give up his "punitive operation" plans, he tried again to launch a still larger-scale winter "punitive operation," bringing up new reinforcements.

Bragging that he would "wipe out" our base "at a stroke," the enemy mobilized forces from all parts of eastern Manchuria and even part of the 19th division stationed in Ranam of Korea. Thus, he hurled at us no less than 5,000 "crack troops" of infantry, cavalry, artillery and air force.

The enemy closed in upon us from the directions of Chiapikou, Wangching and Mt. Mabanshan. The surrounding areas of the base were wrapped in flames. In a moment choking smoke and flames enveloped our base and bursts of artillery fire and bullets of the enemy rent the air.

Under the direct command of Comrade Kim Il Sung, however, our guerilla unit and the people had been fully prepared for action to cope with the enemy's onslaught.

Part of our fighters checked the enemy's advance by relying on vantage points at the entrance of Mt. Bbyojok and Mt. Mabanshan, while a snipers' group

led by Comrades Jang and Choe, both of them crack shots of 3rd Company, secretly approached the enemy, forcing their way through the deep snow covering the mountain ridges and ravines, in disregard of the smoke and flames. Having passed through the fire, they showered by surprise bullets on the flank and rear of the enemy from several spots. The haughty enemy soldiers were mowed down in heaps.

Now, the enemy concentrated in the sector of Mt. Bbyojok its main force which had been rushing on Mt. Mabanshan. He made several attempts to attack us. But the wilder he grew, the greater casualties he suffered. The enemy was forced to give up hurling any more troops into the Mt. Bbyojok sector and withdraw the remaining troops about three kilometres backward, leaving behind heaps of dead bodies.

At the sight of the enemy's retreat, we were overjoyed, and not only we. The members of the Women's Association who were carrying ammunition and preparing meals for us and even members of the Children's Corps who were encouraging us to victory, gathered in front of the command post where Comrade Kim Il Sung was, singing songs in congratulation of the victory. But Comrade Kim Il Sung instructed that the aged, the weak and the children be evacuated to the ravine at the back of the Chiumatsun village and that the guerilla unit in the Mt. Bbyojok sector move to another peak leaving some observers there.

Though the enemy was hard hit and forced to fall back, it was certain that he would attempt to launch an attack more stubbornly. For he had long

since prepared and mobilized a big military force for "mopping up" the Hsiaowangching guerilla base, and sustained a severe blow that day. This was what Comrade Kim Il Sung had in mind when he instructed us to get ready to deal a still harder blow at the enemy and thus follow up the victory won in the first round of battle.

Upon his instructions, the aged and the children were evacuated without delay to the ravine behind the village and we prepared ourselves for another battle.

The next day. Just as Comrade Kim Il Sung had clearly foreseen, the enemy came back, hurling a "death-defying storming party" against us to take Mt. Bbyojok, counting on his numerical superiority. But in this "fresh offensive," too, the enemy was fated to meet with defeat. For our unit, under the instructions of Comrade Kim Il Sung, had already moved to a peak next to Mt. Bbyojok and the enemy, as he rushed at Mt. Bbyojok concentrating his attack on it, found himself subjected to a heavy concentric fire from an entirely unexpected direction—from behind the mountain.

Though having lost one battle after another on the peaks of the mountains at the back of Hsiaowangching, the enemy did not retreat, and hung on stubbornly. In spite of his heavy losses, the enemy kept on throwing fresh troops into the Chiumatsun valley. It seemed he was determined to go the whole hog with his operation of "wiping out" the Hsiaowangching guerilla base at all costs. He showered bullets and shells all over the place indiscri-

minately—mountain peaks, ravines and tree groves.

Having fought under these circumstances for nearly 20 days, we found it difficult now, in the face of the enemy's continued attacks, to protect the guerilla base any longer by standing on the defensive alone.

In the first place, most of our weapons were old type rifles, and even those outdated weapons were not enough to go round to all of us. With these weapons, it was impossible to remain on the defensive for a long time against many regiments of enemy forces attacking us from all directions.

And these circumstances could possibly drive us into a passive position in battle and there was an imminent danger of the guerilla base being taken by the enemy and many people exposed to the blood-stained bayonets of the enemy. The worst of it was that the houses had been burnt down in the bombing and incendiary fire set by the enemy, and not a grain of rice could be obtained.

Surrounded by the enemy, we could not make a fire freely even when there were patients who needed warmth. Our clothes had been torn and burnt, and so we had to combat frostbite. This combat was no less hard than fighting the enemy.

From the break of dawn enemy planes tore about the sky over the mountain peaks and ravines. So, we had to protect the people from air attacks while fighting the enemy's ground forces. I cannot fully describe the difficult situation in which we had to fight at the time. Yet, I cannot forget the old people and women who, in defiance of the danger, brought

hot water to the guerilla fighters who were cleaning their guns and repairing trenches between enemy onslaughts. The images of those people are still vivid in my memory.

And I seem to see the boys of the Children's Corps hiding between rocks, loading and training their "home-made" pistols (make of tin and waste iron) upon the enemy; ringing in my ears still to this day are the voices of their song:

Come together, comrades, under the red banner,
Come with one mind to our platoon,
With bombs and pistols in your hands.
Come together to fight for power!

(From the revolutionary song "Our Blood is Boiling Still Hotter")

Particularly, the guerilla fighters and the local people had a boundless feeling of trust in and respect for Comrade Kim Il Sung who was leading us to victory even in the arduous struggle.

This happened when the enemy had managed to make his way to the entrance of the Chiumatsun village.

Some of the women who had been evacuated to Tzuteling Pass (the Taipingtsun district) situated between the Hsiaowangching district and Shihliping, were on their way one evening to Lishukou where the Headquarters was stationed, carrying with them bottles of hot water for the guerilla fighters who could not even make a fire freely.

On the way, they perceived some dark figures emerging above the precipice looking out on the Chiumatsun village which had been assaulted by the

enemy. Not knowing what to do, the women quickly hid themselves in the snow. But when they looked out again cautiously, they saw nothing at all on the precipice. "Maybe we saw phantoms!" one of the women whispered.

"No, I'm sure I saw two persons standing on the brink of the precipice," another woman insisted.

"What if we give an alarm?" the third one suggested.

"Oh, no. They will send us a burst of bullets which, I am afraid, may fly in the direction of the place where the General and guerillas are...."

One of the women who were whispering, stood up, saying: "You remain here. I'll run over to that side and shout an alarm...." With this, the woman, aunt of the guerilla fighter Choe Chang Bom, put down her bottles on the ground and ran out into the dark woods.

She was anxious to protect the Headquarters from danger; she did not in the least care about her own life.

Dashing in the direction opposite to the Headquarters, she shouted at the top of her voice:

"Enemy's coming, he is creeping up the precipice!" It was that she wanted to draw the attention of the enemy to herself.

This was how the women, even in conditions where they had nothing but water to fill their stomachs, fought unyieldingly, protecting the Headquarters from danger, helping and caring for the guerilla fighters at the risk of their lives.

Neither hardships nor the desperate attempts of

the enemy could break the united might of the people and the guerillas who, under the wise leadership of Comrade Kim Il Sung, fought together through thick and thin, with firm confidence in victory, and protected the Headquarters at the hazard of their own lives. We were full of determination to defend the guerilla base to the last. Comrade Kim Il Sung studied the movements of the enemy and gave us new combat orders. He said:

...In view of the imbalance of strength between the guerillas and the enemy's picked forces which outnumber us scores of times and from the viewpoint of guerilla tactics, a head-on collision with the enemy is an adventurous act bound to meet with failure.

On the other hand, if we only remain on the defensive in this narrow area against the enemy force that is prepared for a protracted battle to attack us, it would certainly mean nothing else than playing into the hands of the enemy; it would be favourable to the enemy and very unfavourable to us. In order to save the situation, it is necessary to divide our unit into two before going to action.

One group must stay here while the other shall go into the area under the control of the enemy. In an attempt to launch a large-scale attack on the guerilla bases in many counties of eastern Manchuria simultaneously, the enemy has even mobilized most of the police and the self-defence corps in the "punitive operation." Therefore, the rear of the enemy is practically empty now. Moreover, under the present conditions the enemy will hardly imagine

that the guerillas should leave the base and enter the area behind his lines.

Taking advantage of this opportunity, we must strike a sudden blow at the enemy by boldly and swiftly attacking his barracks, self-defence corps and police stations in his rear, and cut off the enemy's supply of food and clothing by raiding his munitions depots and Q departments or attacking his military goods trains. This will bring us plenty of munitions and make the enemy tremble with fear and anxiety everywhere.

In the meantime, our propaganda leaflets should be distributed extensively among the soldiers of the puppet Manchukuo and Japanese armies to cause agitation among them, while we harass the enemy incessantly from behind so that he is forced to withdraw his troops mobilized to attack our base. The group remaining at the base should avoid head-on collisions with the onrushing enemy troops in large numbers, but it should be divided into several details and, in the daytime, should protect the people at the base who must be dispersed over the area to evade the enemy, while at night these details should surprise the billeting ground of the enemy and annihilate him.

With these long-drawn, mobile tactics and positive, energetic movements we should continue to inflict defeat and death upon the enemy and safeguard the main force of our army and the people at the base....

If Comrade Kim Il Sung had not worked out such superb tactics and if he had not given such a splend-

id leadership at that time, the base of Hsiaowangching would have fallen into the hands of the enemy, the people there would have suffered immeasurably and been slaughtered, and our ranks would have gone to pieces.

It was because of the wise leadership of Comrade Kim Il Sung that the people in the guerilla base could be evacuated to Shihliping and the guerillas could build up a position on the mountain while protecting the people. In the daytime, the guerillas mowed down enemy soldiers en masse in fierce counterattacks, availing themselves of the vantage grounds on every height and in every ravine, as they crawled up. At night they organized many nocturnal storming parties which launched surprise attacks on the enemy's bivouacs or raided his supply routes by turn.

When, after several days of such battles, the enemy had been thrown into confusion and the situation turned in favor of the guerilla unit, Comrade Kim Il Sung led a detachment of the guerilla army into the area controlled by the enemy.

The guerillas who made a sally into the enemy-controlled area under the direct command of Comrade Kim Il Sung, raided enemy barracks, police stations and offices of the self-defence corps one after another in Liangshuichuantzu (an area on the opposite bank of the Duman river), Peifungwutung (about 40 kilometres north of the town of Tumen), and in other districts, and then assaulted the enemy's lumber station at Donggol of Ssutung.

After each victorious battle in which enemy

troops were wiped out, Comrade Kim Il Sung would always call together the inhabitants of the locality and inspire them with confidence in victory, thus rousing them to the struggle.

Greatly moved at this, workers of the lumber station in Ssutung asked for admission into the guerilla unit, gave the guerillas the new footwear and fatigue dresses they had been keeping for themselves, collected flour, salt, etc., and offered them to the guerillas, and many followed the guerilla unit carrying those articles.

Excitement and delight of the people were beyond description when they personally met Comrade Kim Il Sung and heard his speech elucidating the prospects of victory in the revolution, for they had witnessed or heard with anxiety that thousands of enemy troops were closing in upon the Hsiaowangching guerilla base from all sides.

Returning to Liangshuichuantzu, Comrade Kim Il Sung decided to go over to a decisive counteroffensive by taking advantage of the confusion within the enemy ranks. He planned an attack on the town of Wangching, the centre of the enemy's rear.

It was around one o'clock on the night of the next day. Personally led by Comrade Kim Il Sung, a guerilla unit stormed into the town of Wangching breaking through the manifold guard lines, and swooped down on two or three enemy organs and set them on fire.

After some time, the guerillas left the town and came up the mountain path leading to Yaoyingkou. From there they could command a full view of the

town. Many buildings of enemy organs in the central part of the city were in flames and beyond the raging flames could be seen the watchtower of the fire station. But, in spite of the fire, there was not a man coming out to sound the alarm.

Our raid on the town of Wangching proved a severe blow at the enemy, for him it was a bolt from the blue. That our small guerilla unit composed of only 50 or so, while successfully defending the Hsiaowangching base and its people, should have taken the initiative in the hard struggle waged for over 40 days against more than 5,000 enemy troops and, at last, stormed the town of Wangching, the regrouping centre of the enemy forces, was something which baffled the enemy's imagination.

We often heard that not only local people but also the enemy soldiers talked about the superb tactics of Comrade Kim Il Sung, and described his agile movements with the words "preternatural swiftness."

Having suffered an irretrievable defeat by our attack on the town of Wangching made under the leadership of Comrade Kim Il Sung, the enemy could not but retreat, giving up his attack on our guerilla base though he had bragged that he would "wipe out the base at a stroke."

When the enemy had retreated, the guerillas and the people came back to the base of Hsiaowangching, and strengthened the defences of the base, where we started farming promptly in the spring of 1934. We were all fully resolved to defeat the Japanese imperialists and win freedom and independence of the fatherland.

In the course of the subsequent five years until we disorganized the guerilla base and went out to operate in wider areas, the enemies persistently attacked us, but each time they sustained heavy losses and were repelled. Every time they dared to attack us, we guerillas and the dauntless people of the base, under the wise leadership of Comrade Kim Il Sung, fought them back, giving them wholesale death.

By overcoming those hardships and winning the battles, we have come to enjoy the freedom and happiness of today; and we are now striving for a still brighter future of socialism and communism, making uninterrupted and continuous advance.

I say to myself: Comrade Kim Il Sung led us to the victory in the past; today he is also leading us to the victory in the van of us. What a great happiness it is!

There is nothing impossible for us to do, who are marching forward upholding the teachings of Comrade Kim Il Sung.

Looking back on the past and thinking of today I renew my conviction that when the Party members and the entire working people, rallied steel-strong around Comrade Kim Il Sung, fight under his wise leadership, we will surmount any difficulties and hardships and emerge victorious without fail in every battle.

It is in the fighting spirit full of such conviction that we are making the Chollima march looking forward to ever brighter and glorious future of the fatherland.

KUM SUN, A TRUE MEMBER OF THE CHILDREN'S CORPS

KIM OK SUN

Every year the children celebrate June 6 as their holiday.

Whenever I see the children celebrating the June 6 holiday when the Korean Pioneers was founded as a children's organization to rear future revolutionaries, I involuntarily recall many of the Children's Corps members who fought and laid down their lives without hesitation for the sake of the revolution during the anti-Japanese armed struggle.

Among them I can never forget Kim Kum Sun, a true member of the Children's Corps who kept the secret of the revolution with her very life.

I first met Kum Sun in the December of 1932.

Having lost my parents in the enemy's "punitive operation," I, then an orphan, lived with the Kum Sun's family at Sunglintsun of Wangyukou and went to Children's Corps school in Peitung with her.

She had parents and younger brothers and sis-

ters. Her father worked for the Anti-Japanese Association and her mother for the Women's Association.

Kum Sun, as a member of the Children's Corps, always faithfully carried out the assignments given by the organization; also, she was a model in the activities of the children's art troupe.

One day in 1933 when May Day was near at hand, Kum Sun and I were told by the organization to go to the guerilla base in Wangching and teach songs and dances to the people of the base, while participating in the Corps life there.

Kum Sun was nine and I was thirteen at that time.

A girl of nine usually plays the baby to her mother, hanging about her skirt.

But Kum Sun was stout-hearted and very clever for her age. So she did not hesitate to leave her parents' bosom and go to the Wangching guerilla base very far from her village.

A few days later Kum Sun and I were ready for the journey, and said good-by to her dear parents.

Guided by a guerilla correspondent, we arrived at Matsun, Hsiaowangching after several days' journey.

A few days after we came to the Matsun village, informed of our arrival, Comrade Kim Il Sung sent for us. We went to his log-cabin situated at the mouth of the Lishukou valley.

Comrade Kim Il Sung received us gladly and, seeing that Kum Sun was so little and lovely, patted her on the head, paying her a high compliment for walking all the way to the base. He asked her age

and about her parents. He also kindly said that we should be faithful in our life as members of the Children's Corps and become models for all other children in the execution of our duties and teach them songs and dances.

After that Kum Sun and I grew up under the paternal love and care of Comrade Kim Il Sung.

Keeping his teachings in our hearts, we taught songs and dances and faithfully carried out our duties as Children's Corps members.

One autumn evening in 1933, Comrade Kim Il Sung, who deeply loved us children and always directed great concern for us, sent an orderly for us members of the Children's Corps.

There were more than thirty of us Children's Corps members. We all shouted for joy. Strapping knapsacks on our backs, we set out for his log-cabin in the Lishukou valley.

Comrade Kim Il Sung was waiting for us under a tree in the garden. Beaming with a broad smile, he took the hand of Kum Sun who was walking with a vigorous gait at the head of the children, and asked in detail how she had been and what she had been doing during that time.

Kum Sun told him she had been carrying out liaison missions and sentry duty, as well as the work of the children's art troupe assigned to the children by the Young Communist League organization. Then Comrade Kim Il Sung, fingering her red tie, asked if she was not hungry.

Kum Sun replied reassuringly that she was not hungry.

He also asked about our preparations for passing the winter, and examined our knapsacks one by one.

Our knapsacks, however, did not contain enough of essential things—parched-rice powder, matches, cups, etc.

Comrade Kim Il Sung personally put three kilogrammes of parched-rice powder and some boxes of matches in each knapsack. Then he helped us shoulder our knapsacks.

That evening we took supper arranged by Comrade Kim Il Sung, and we went back to the village in high spirits.

Thus, we children grew up knowing no inconveniences in those difficult days under his deep love and meticulous care.

But one day Kum Sun received the shocking news that all her family—her father, mother, brothers and sisters—had been murdered tragically in the enemy's "punitive operation" after she had left home.

How bitterly she wept that night! I was also an orphan, my parents having been killed at the enemy's hand, so I deeply sympathized with her from the bottom of my heart.

It is a great misfortune for a child to be orphaned and, more, nothing can be sadder for him than growing up without knowing parental love.

Holding back my rising anger, I consoled Kum Sun who was sobbing bitterly.

"Don't cry, Kum Sun," I said to her. "You oughtn't to shed tears before the enemy, you must revenge your family on the enemy at any cost."

From that time on, we suppressed the sorrow of orphanage and lived optimistically, working more energetically for the Children's Corps.

As members of the children's art troupe, Kum Sun and I always danced together in the same group to inspire the people in the guerilla base and the guerilla fighters.

When we danced a duet, Kum Sun always circled inside and I, outside. People who gathered to see our performance would stormily applaud especially when little Kum Sun did a lovely pirouette.

One day we gave a welcome performance in the soldiers' hall in honour of the day's victory achieved by the guerilla unit under the command of Comrade Kim Il Sung.

That day Kum Sun danced in fine feather.

She moved her feet agilely, skilfully sending a kerchief between her legs. Shouts of joy mixed with the sound of stamping feet went up among the seeing guerillas.

When our performance was over, Comrade Kim Il Sung gathered our troupe members around him in the soldiers' hall. Patting Kum Sun on the head, he said:

...Kum Sun! You must not forget the foe who killed your father and mother, you must without fail avenge their murder on him....

...We have many orphans here besides Kum Sun. And even those whose parents are living are having a hard time pursued by the enemy. Unable to live in Korea, your parents had to cross over to Gando

and are leading a life of misery. Who is responsible for this? None other than the Japanese imperialist robbers. That is why we are up in arms and are fighting to sweep away the Japanese imperialists and liberate Korea.

We are fighting at the cost of our blood to prevent the shame and sorrow of a ruined people from befalling you.

You flower buds are the very driving force of the revolution of future Korea. So you should study hard, work well, be exemplary in the life of the Children's Corps and in the activities of the children's art troupe.

That is the way to move up the day of returning to the homeland and living a happy life....

Then he paused and fell silent for a moment. Kum Sun sensed that General Kim Il Sung was concerned about her. So she said:

"I will be a fine member of the Children's Corps and take revenge for the death of my father and mother without fail as you tell me."

"That's right, you are quite right!" Comrade Kim Il Sung said in his praise of Kum Sun. "You really are a good girl, Kum Sun." He told us that we members of the Children's Corps should help the people rebuild their houses destroyed by the enemy's "punitive force" or assist with farm work in the daytime, and in the evening give performances of the children's art troupe to raise the spirits of the people in the guerilla base.

Then, Comrade Kim Il Sung told us to strictly observe discipline as members of the Children's

Corps, and faithfully carry out the sentry duty and liaison missions in order to protect the guerilla base firmly against the enemy's attack. He also told us to be alert at all times without becoming remiss even a moment.

Keeping his words in mind, we exhibited greater zeal in the life of the Children's Corps and the activities of the children's art troupe.

In accordance with the teaching of Comrade Kim Il Sung on firmly uniting all the anti-Japanese revolutionary forces, our art troupe made a performance tour of the anti-Japanese units scattered about Wangching county.

We gave performances not only in the guerilla base, but also at the enemy-controlled farm villages in Hsichien, Parenkou, and Tumen on the shore of the Duman river.

In close contact with the underground organizations in those places, we entertained the local folks with revolutionary songs and with dances depicting the optimistic life of the people in the guerilla base in order to rouse them to the revolution.

After performances, we would call together the village children and tell them about the revolutionary life of the members of the Children's Corps in the guerilla base. At the same time we tried to convince them that unless Japanese imperialism was smashed the children could never expect to live in a happy society. We also made talks before the masses telling them that Japanese imperialism was bound to fall and the revolution was sure to emerge victorious.

The audience, moved by Kum Sun's songs and speeches, spoke out: "We must take part in the revolutionary activities in view of that lass." Young folks declared their determination to join the guerilla army.

I cannot forget the face of Kum Sun as I saw her in the summer of 1934 when our children's art troupe was sent to an anti-Japanese unit in northern Manchuria on the instructions of Comrade Kim Il Sung, and gave performances there, of which I have already related in another reminiscence. It is still fresh in my memory that when crossing the high, steep passes of the Laoyehling mountain range, Kum Sun showed no signs of fatigue at all, and that when bigger children offered to carry her knapsack to lighten her burden, she turned down the offer and walked on with a lovely swinging gait at the head of the file.

From the moment Kum Sun appeared in our first performance in Machang where commander Chi's unit was stationed, she grew into favour.

When the curtain rose, Kum Sun appeared on the stage and spoke to the soldiers of the anti-Japanese unit. She emphasized that the Korean and Chinese peoples should fight shoulder to shoulder against the Japanese imperialists in order to save the people from poverty and starvation and to build a new society free from exploitation and oppression.

When she finished, the soldiers expressed their warm admiration for her: "A little slip of a girl and such a convincing speaker!"

On that evening, after the colourful programme

was over, commander Chi who was so deeply impressed, took Kum Sun to his room and, holding her on his lap, gave her earrings and bracelets as gifts. After helping her put them on, he patted her on the head and gave her sweets and biscuits.

Kum Sun not only did well in the children's art troupe both in the guerilla base and other places, but was always exemplary and faithful in carrying out her duties as a member of the Children's Corps. Though still young, Kum Sun was courageous and daring in carrying out her assignments.

This happened in the winter of 1933 when the guerillas beat off the enemy's "punitive force" at the approach to Hsiaowangching.

Kum Sun together with her friends climbed to the hilltop where the guerillas had taken up their positions.

She went to the backside of the hill and cut bush clovers, with which she built a fire to dry the guerilla fighters' shoes wet through from snow. She also prepared hot water for them. In this way she inspired the guerillas with fresh fighting spirit.

Even amidst a hail of enemy bullets she shouted slogans and sang revolutionary songs lustily.

Her songs infused in the guerillas great strength and courage, while striking terrors into the enemy like exploding bombs.

Kum Sun was also quick and courageous in fulfilling liaison missions.

When instructed by the revolutionary organization, she willingly carried out numerous liaison missions on pitch-dark nights crossing steep mountains

and covering a long distance. Not only that, she almost everyday stood sentry on the hill to guard the guerilla base.

One night in the summer of 1934 when Kum Sun was ten years old, all the people in the guerilla base were sound asleep from the day's fatigue. Just then the enemy's "punitive force" stealthily sneaked into the base from behind, to which the people of the base used to retire for shelter in case of emergency at night.

Lest the people take flight at the sound of shots, the enemy brutally killed village folks with bayonets.

Even at this critical moment Kum Sun rushed about the village fearlessly informing the villagers of the enemy's intrusion and urging them to take shelter.

In this way, Kum Sun grew up into a true member of the Children's Corps under the deep love and solicitude of Comrade Kim Il Sung, and she faithfully acted upon his teachings—she was always a model for others in the work and life of the Children's Corps and protected the residents in the guerilla base by self-sacrificing efforts.

It was in the late autumn of 1934. Kum Sun was spending days of victorious struggle at the Wangching guerilla base. One day she quite unexpectedly received the glad news that her mother was alive whom she had thought dead. Impatient to meet her mother as soon as possible, she left for Paitsaokou with a man who was going down to the enemy-controlled area.

A few days later, we were shocked to hear that on the way to her mother, Kum Sun was unfortunately caught by the Japanese military police detachment stationed at Paitsaokou.

Knowing that Kum Sun came down from the guerilla base, the enemy made every vicious attempt to ferret out the secrets of the guerilla unit and the base from her.

Making light of Kum Sun as a mere little girl, the enemy tried to get round her smartly. A gendarme coaxed her: "Come on, pretty little girl. Who has tricked you? Tell us the truth, then you can go home."

But she was stubborn, she said she knew nothing.

Deciding that he could not coax her into revealing secrets, the enemy began to torture her cruelly.

But no torture could make her give out any secrets of the organization.

When the torture produced no effect, the enemy threatened her with death, saying: "Own up quick! Or we'll kill you."

Then Kum Sun shouted, "Go to hell, you bastards! I won't talk to you dogs!" and she spat in the hateful face of an officer. Realizing that no appeasement, tricks, tortures or threats would make the little girl give in, the enemy at last dragged her out to the execution ground. On the day when she, bound with a rope, was walked off to the execution ground, thousands of people were driven out into the streets of Paitsaokou.

Seeing Kum Sun, a little girl of ten, heading for the execution ground without fear or tears hold-

ing high her head bloody from torture, the hearts of the people were torn between pity and anger.

"Just say, 'I'm sorry for what I've done,' and then you will be spared unconditionally," said the Japanese butchers.

"Tell me what wrong I have done. I've done nothing wrong." Kum Sun retorted and cursed the Japanese gendarmes.

At this, the people gritted their teeth, gulping down tears.

Kum Sun, showing no tears, faced the crowd, and beloved fathers and mothers who were in tears, and cried out, "Fathers and mothers! Why are you shedding tears? Don't cry. The guerilla uncles will certainly wipe out the enemy. I hope you will put up a determined struggle until the day of liberation of the fatherland!"

The enemy exasperated with anger pointed their guns at her breast.

Kum Sun looked sharply at them and shouted, "You can kill me, but the revolution will break out!" "Down with the Japanese imperialists!" Then, she breathed her last with: "Long live the Korean revolution!"

The sagacious and courageous Children's Corps member Kum Sun died a hero's death.

Short as her life was—less than ten years—what a brilliant life it was and what a heroic death she died!

The news of Kum Sun's tragic death made all the people in the guerilla base tremble with indignation; they swore to avenge the murder of Kum Sun.

In the valley of Yaoyingkou memorial services were held for Kum Sun. The participants held demonstrations chanting the dirge for a long time to show their resolve to take revenge.

The news of the heroic death of Kum Sun was reported in the Chinese paper *Chiukuo Hsinpao* and also in an organ of the Comintern.

The heroic death of little girl Kim Kum Sun not only fanned revolutionary flames all over the Paitsaokou district, but greatly inspired the youths in the whole Wangching area to rise to action.

As a result, innumerable young men and women in various parts of eastern Manchuria joined the anti-Japanese guerilla unit with a firm determination to fight with arms against the Japanese imperialists to the last.

* * *

Though Kum Sun did not live to see it, her ardent desire and dream—the liberation of the fatherland—has come true.

Today our children, envious of nobody, are enjoying a happy life in the warm bosom of the Party and the Leader under the socialist system established in the northern half of the Republic.

I sincerely hope that all our children will grow more healthily into sons and daughters, the reserves for the building of communism, who are loyal to the Party and the Leader as Kum Sun and other true members of Children's Corps remained faithful to the revolution.

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